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Inside: UMSL Basketball preview

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

SGA recommends 51-cent student fee increase

BY BEN SWOFFORD
Associate News Editor

The UM-St. Louis Student Government Association voted Friday to increase student activities fees by 51 cents per credit hour.

The SGA rejected a student activity fee increase of 42 cents for Infrastructure and Recreation/Facilities while approving increases for the University Center, Athletics and Health Services.

"What we had today was a mes-

sage from the students about repeated increases in funding," David Dodd, senior, international business, said.

In a two-hour-long meeting, SGA heard presentations from representatives from all of the departments asking for funding increases and asked questions as to where the increases would go.

Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of Administrative Services, represented both Infrastructure and Recreation/Facilities.

Students seemed concerned that if

the increase of funding for Infrastructure was approved that would have meant a 20 percent increase in funding over the last two years.

Schuster said the extra funding was needed for the shuttle service, and new MetroLink contract negotiations in the next year would probably mean more expenses to the University.

"What they told me is all bets are off after [the end of the current deal] for a substantial increase, if you con-

tinue to use the 11,000 passes that we buy for both fall and spring semesters and 4,000 for summer," Schuster said.

"I guess I am saying I don't know when the increases will stop because I don't have control over the two biggest components."

"What [Schuster] meant was at least a doubling of the cost," Dodd said. "[MetroLink] is not being very forthcoming with a contract."

A 40 percent increase in the gas bill from AmerenUE was part of the

reasons for the additional 17 cents on the Recreation/Facility Fee.

Students were worried about the amount of money from this fee going to Facilities instead of Recreation.

"The discrepancy between the amount of money collected from the student fees, approximately \$617,000 (FY06 est.), and the amount allocated to Rec. Sports for programming, approximately \$244,000 (FY06 est.), is the reason for this decision," reads the SGA Student Fee Review Committee Findings.

The Student Fee Review Committee recommended that students vote to approve all fee increases except for Recreation/Facilities fee.

Athletics received an extra 15 cents per credit. Doug Boyer, coordinator for Athletics, said the money was needed to be more competitive in Division II.

see **STUDENT FEES**, page 10



“Why be out there every day practicing to get second, third or fourth place when you have the ability to be number one?”

— Jackie Joyner-Kersey,
World-class Olympian

JJK says mental strength is key to achieve goals

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
News Editor

"As you see me, I stand alone, but in my journey, there's been a lot of people that have helped me, a lot of people in the background," World-class Olympian Jackie Joyner-Kersey told the audience during her visit to UM-St. Louis.

Joyner-Kersey shared different stories about her life's goals at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on Tuesday during "A Kind of Grace: The Autobiography of the World's Greatest Female Athlete," part of the Anheuser Busch Vision Speaker Series.

Joyner-Kersey, who grew up in East St. Louis, Ill., stressed that she did not complete her life goals alone, so she spoke often using the term, "we."

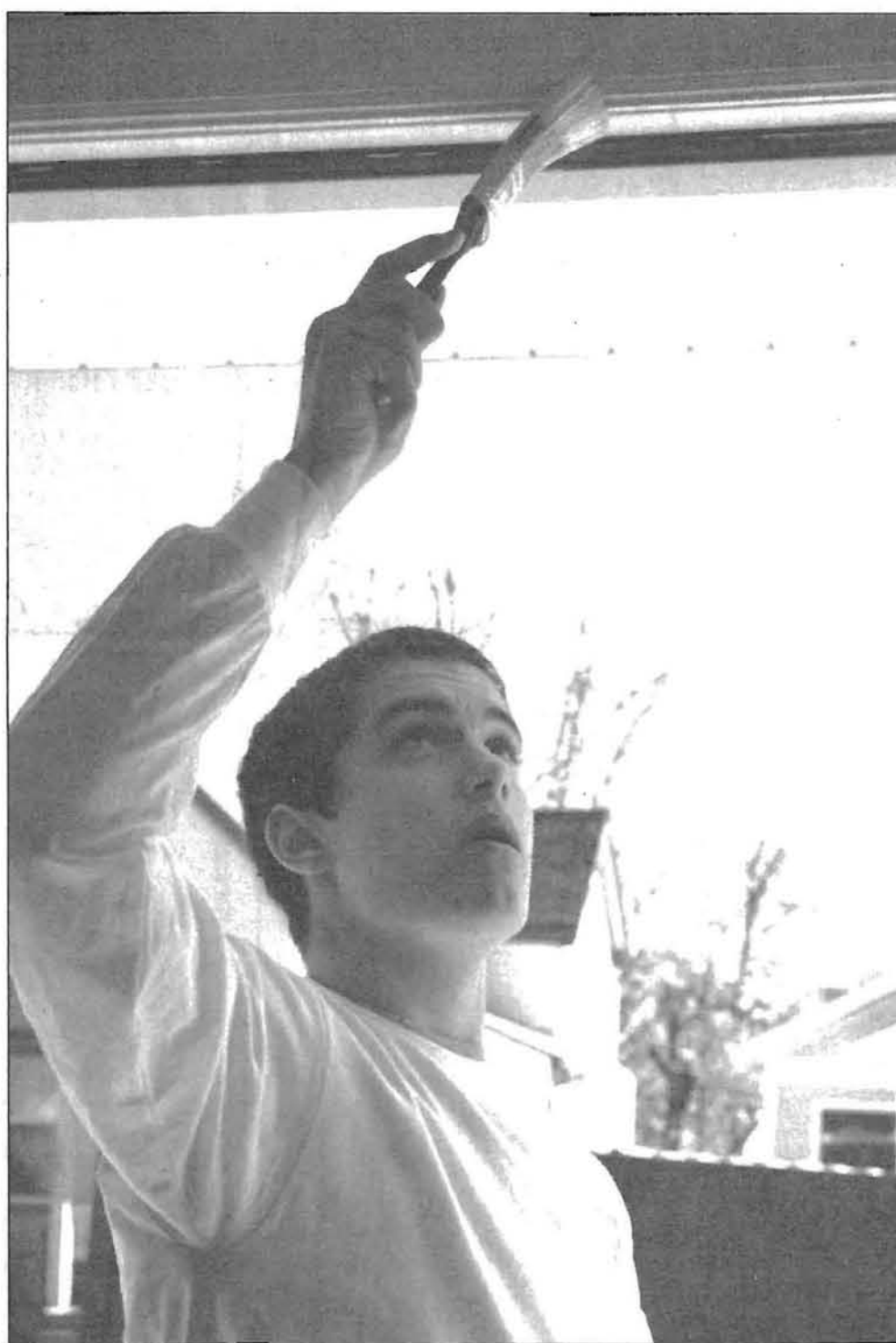
She said, "I did not know where my path was going to take me, but I did know I had a dream, a dream to be the best I could be athletically. I didn't realize I was blessed with that gift."

At age 14, Joyner-Kersey asked her high school coach if he thought she could be in the Olympics one day. He told her she had the potential. "My goal was really ... believe it or not ... to get on TV," she said.

After graduating from high school, she was accepted to UCLA on a basketball scholarship. Her family and friends asked her why she wanted to move out west to a fast life, and she replied, "The only thing that's going to be traveling fast is me down the track." Being away from home was tough, she said, but that did not discourage her from her dream.

see **JJK VISIT**, page 10

Painting for a cause ...



Valerie Breshears/ The Current

Casimir Francis Koziatsek, freshman, business, helps paint Thursday morning with the other Habitat for Humanity volunteers.

Speaker to show view of Iraq through soldier eyes

BY MELISSA S. HAYDEN
Staff Writer

Rusty Wilson is not in the military. He is not a soldier. Yet, he is giving a presentation at UM-St. Louis presenting the perspective of a soldier in Iraq.

The University Program Board is sponsoring the free event on Wednesday Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. in Century Rooms A & B in the Millennium Student Center. A reception will begin at 6 p.m. where students will have a chance to speak with Wilson.

UPB wants Mr. Wilson to share his experience with students at UM-St. Louis because he offered the board what it feels is a unique perspective of the war in Iraq.

Shanna Carpenter, senior, communication and UPB co-chair said, "He said he was going to give a nonpartisan look at the war, not from the view of a Republican or a Democrat, but what the troops are doing and what the war is actually like."

Wilson, a former director of activities at several colleges in California for 8-10 years, was working as a cruise director. He discovered the military was in need of cruise directors for morale, welfare and recreation purposes in Iraq and he took the job.

Wilson said, "When I found out I was going, I sent out e-mails to my family and friends to explain why I was doing it. They said my e-mail was so interesting they sent it to their friends, and those friends said they wanted to be on my e-mail list."

see **IRAQ SPEAKER**, page 10

Diane Rehm, from National Public Radio, spoke on Thursday about the art of interviewing.

Valerie Breshears/ The Current



Women's conference ends year-long celebration

BY MONICA MARTIN
Staff Writer

The Women in the Arts year-long celebration ended this weekend with a three-day conference in the Millennium Student Center, as well as other places on campus.

The Conference kicked off on Thursday, Nov. 10 at 9 a.m. Different events went on at the same time in different rooms on campus. Light refreshments were offered mid-morning and followed by a lunch break a short time later.

Lecture topics included Renaissance art, cinema, and dance. The first keynote speaker was Barbara Harbach, who spoke at 1 p.m. Harbach is the director of the Women in the Arts, as well as a professor of music at UM-St. Louis. Her

speech was called "An Evolution from Organist to Composer."

Lectures continued throughout day, culminating with the much anticipated lecture by Diane Rehm. Rehm is the host and executive producer of the nationally and internationally aired "The Diane Rehm Show" by NPR and NPR Worldwide, American University, and WAMU radio. A wine and appetizer reception was held at the university bookstore.

Events continued on Friday morning at 9 a.m., and mirrored the previous day's events, with lectures, and lunch breaks. Mallerie Zimmer, director of Venus Envy, led a panel discussion, "Today's Women's Arts Movements."

The keynote speaker for the day was Diane Touliatos-Miles, director of the Center for Humanities. She is also a pro-

fessor of musicology at UM-St. Louis, and her lecture was on "The Earliest Women in Music." Friday's events ended with an orchestral concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Anheuser-Busch Hall at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Saturday was the last day of events, and featured speakers from different universities, including Texas Tech University and State University of NY-Buffalo. The keynote speaker was Judith Lang Zaimont, composer. Her lecture was on "Progress, Conscience, Imagination: Riding the Tide of New Notes." The night ended with a chamber concert at the Touhill Performing Arts Lee Theater.

The year-long celebration of women in the arts showcased various women artists. A DVD is available of the conference. Those interested can call 516-5981.



INSIDE:

'Women in the Arts' founder Barbara Harbach wins Missouri Arts Council Award

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NightLife: O.A.R. performs at the Fox

INSIDE



What are UM-St. Louis students doing for Thanksgiving?

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Getting the MP3 player that's right for you

See page 8

Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board! Call 516-5174 for details or email current@jinx.umsi.edu

Monday

A Night Of Comedy

The UM-St. Louis University Players present Cirque Du So Lame (sketch comedy) and a production of Christopher Durang's Titanic, which will follow Cirque Du So Lame. The shows will be held in the Lee Theatre at Touhill Performing Arts Center on Nov. 14-15 at 8 p.m. Admission to both shows is free. However, both shows contain adult language and situations and are not suitable for young children.

Hunger Awareness Week to be Observed at UMSL

The Catholic Newman Center at UM-St. Louis will begin observation of Hunger Awareness Week today through Nov. 17 with informational tables at the MSC. These tables will have info and statistics on local, national and international hunger, as well as organizations that work to eliminate hunger. Call 314-385-3455 for more info on Hunger Awareness Week.

Scholars to discuss "War Trauma Recovery"

Priscilla Schulz and Chris Huber will discuss "War Trauma Recovery: Effective Interventions" at noon in the auditorium of the Kathy J. Weinman Advocacy Centre. The seminar is free and open to the public. For more info, call 6738.

Tuesday

Soup Lines at the Nosh

In observation of Hunger Awareness Week, the Catholic Newman Center at UM-St. Louis is sponsoring soup lines at the Nosh in the MSC from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. For a \$2 donation, patrons

will receive a bowl of soup and a piece of bread. Proceeds from the event will benefit local, national, and international organizations working to fight hunger. Call 385-3455 for more info.

Jazz ensemble to perform with special guest

The UM-St. Louis Jazz Ensemble will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Touhill. The concert will feature special guest artist Kim Park, saxophonist and former soloist with the Stan Kenton Orchestra. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for the general public. Call 4949 to reserve tickets.

Resume Writing Skills Workshop

This free, one-hour workshop discusses appropriate resume formats and content. Whether you are seeking an internship or a full-time position, a marketable resume is a necessity. Workshops are only open to current UM-St. Louis students and alumni. Registration is required. Call 5111 or register in person at Career Services, 278 MSC.

Movie Screening

The UM-St. Louis College Democrats will present Wal-Mart "The High Cost of Low Price" in 316 MSC at 3 p.m.

Wednesday

Hunger Awareness Week Hunger Banquet

Come learn about the unequal distribution of wealth in the world by participating in an interactive Hunger Banquet. This event is from 12:30 p.m.

to 1:30 p.m. in the Pilot House. Please sign up at the info tables in the MSC, in Student Life or contact the Newman Center at 314-385-3455 for more info.

Diversity in America: Interactive Workshop

The office of Multicultural Relations/Academic Affairs is sponsoring an International Study Abroad Dialogue. Join us from 12:30-2 p.m. in 100 Clark Hall. The event will consist of a panel of students discussing their experiences in the study abroad program and how it has influenced their perspective of diversity.

St. Louis Symphony to Debut Performance

The Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra will present "Seeing Debussy, Hearing Monet," a concert designed to explore the parallels between the visual and the aural senses at 7:30 p.m. at the Touhill. Tickets are \$30, \$20 and \$15. Call 4949 to reserve tickets or for more information.

STAT Social Night

UMSL students are invited to attend the second annual STAT Social Night on November 16 from 6pm until... The social will be held at Tropicana Lanes bowling alley near the Galleria in Brentwood. The first 100 STAT members to sign up with Tegan in the student life office will receive free admission. All others are just \$5 to get in and 50 cents for shoes, hot dogs, drinks, and more.

Thursday

Put it on the Board: The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m., every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Send submissions via mail at 388 MSC, One University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121, fax at 516-6811 or email at current@jinx.umsi.edu. All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Scientist to discuss drugs and human metabolism

Guy Padbury, senior scientist with Pfizer Inc., will discuss "Human Drug Metabolism-What Our Bodies Do to Drugs and Its Consequences" at 7 p.m. in MSC Century Room C. The seminar is part of the Students and Teachers As Research Scientists program. Call 6226 for more information.

Basketball home openers

The UM-St. Louis men's and women's basketball teams will kick off the 2005-2006 season with a doubleheader today with home and season openers. The women's team will start the night off at 5:30 p.m. and the men's team will follow at 7:30 p.m. Both games will be played at the Mark Twain Fitness Center, be open to the public and free to UM-St. Louis students. Call 5661 for more info.

Tailgating

Free hot dogs and giveaways will be distributed before and during the basketball games on November 17 at Mark Twain gymnasium! Join us in the Red & Gold fan section for a rowdy good time! Sponsored by STAT and the UMSL Alumni Association.

Friday

UMSL to hold 36-Hour Game-a-thon

The videogame marathon will run from 8 a.m. Nov. 18 to 8 p.m. Nov 19 in the Pilot House. Gamers are encouraged to seek pledges from sponsors, and the donations will benefit St. Louis Childrens Hospital in support of

children affected by Hurricane Katrina who seek treatment at the hospital. The event is free and open to the public. Office of Student Life will provide Xbox and GameCube consoles and popular game titles but participants may bring their own games as well. Participants may sign up at the Pilot House or at www.umsi.edu/studentlife/osl/lead&serve/learning.html. Call 5291 for more information.

Testing for Winter 2006(Spring Semester) Intensive Spanish 12:00 noon

Intensive Spanish offers students the opportunity to be immersed in the Spanish language and culture while completing 15 credit hours in one semester. In order to be approved for registration in this course, students must pass a general language aptitude test. This test is administered by the department, and determines an individual's ability to recognize language sounds and forms and memorize them quickly. To register for the aptitude test, visit our website at www.umsi.edu/divisions/artscience/forlanglit, or call the Foreign Languages and Literatures Office at 516-6240. You must register in order to take the test.

Call for entries

Student artists for 'Art for Aids: Fundraiser,' showing in Gallery Visio from Dec. 6 - Dec. 22. Submit artwork and requested \$20 entry fee by 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14 at the gallery.

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Staff Writers

Monica Martin, Tiffany Golatt, NaKenya Shumate, Francis Lam, Brian Salmo, Zach Meyer, Benjamin Israel, Alberto Patino, Gary Sohn, Laura Ayers, Genelle Jones, Suzanne Roussin, Melissa S. Hayden, Mabel Suen, Brian Oliver, Javier Nadal, LaGuan Fuse, Brownen Voss, Erin Boyle, Sean Michael, Jason Wendleton

Staff Photographers

Brian Fagnani, Stacey Turner, Valene Breshears

388 Millennium Student Center
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63121

Newsroom • (314) 516-5174
Advertising • (314) 516-5316
Business • (314) 516-5175
Fax • (314) 516-6811
Email • current@jinx.umsi.edu

website

<http://www.thecurrentonline.com>

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UMSL offers two new degree programs

BY JAVI NADAL
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis has created two new degrees for this semester: Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Dance.

The B.A. of Interdisciplinary Studies is an individualized program where the area of study is developed by each student with faculty advisement.

Jeanne Morgan Zarucchi, professor of art history and French, is the chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee, and Honors College Dean Robert Bliss is serving as advising director for the major.

"The rationale to create this program is to acknowledge that many students have academic interests in more than one subject area," Zarucchi said. "The campus would like to respond to this growing trend of interdisciplinary

studies, giving support to the new degree program."

Students who want to apply for it must have the approval of the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee and the dean.

"Students must have well-designed, coherent programs of study that are structured to meet the student's unique educational goals," Zarucchi said. "These programs should not be readily available within any other UM-St. Louis degree program."

There are already a dozen students enrolled in this new program although the staff expects the number to grow in future semesters.

The theatre and dance degree is geared for students who want to compose a degree plan that encompasses a broad range of general theatre and dance study or for those who want to focus more directly on a specific area.

Furthermore, students that have earned credits within the existing B.A.

in communication/theatre may choose to transfer their credits to the new degree. Students in other disciplines may also elect to pursue a minor in theater and dance.

This degree is composed of a total of 120 credit hours divided among general education requirements, foreign language, theatre and dance core courses and some electives.

The full time theatre and dance faculty are Niyi Coker, Niki Juncker, Tim Poertner and Alicia Okouchi-Guy.

"There is no public institution in the St. Louis metropolitan area with a B.A. in theatre and dance," said James Fay, department chair of theatre and dance. "This degree offers a possible certification to teach, a good liberal arts degree with an emphasis upon creative thinking."

The theatre and dance degree program was approved this month and is expected to have around 50 students enrolled in the program.

News Briefs

STUCO to address student concerns

SGA President D'Andre Braddix has a plan for UM-St. Louis called the Student Government Coalition (STUCO), an informal organization formed to create cooperation and integration between all of the student government groups.

"It would be a coalition of the five established student groups meeting to touch base with each other," Braddix said. The coalition, which includes the SGA president, vice president and comptroller, the ASUM board chair, the Student Senate chairperson, the chief justice of Student Court and the student curator, would meet biweekly.

"It would be a get-together to keep each other accountable," Braddix said. "All these organizations are responsible for keeping students interests in mind. It would be a chance to bounce ideas off each other and make sure things are properly done." Braddix helped create STUCO because he wanted to make SGA as accessible and open to student needs and concerns as possible to truly represent the voice of the students.

University announces plans for campus garages

Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of administrative services, updated the Faculty Senate on a proposed garage where Parking Lot N now stands. "We're certainly not overbuilt on parking," Schuster said.

The University hired a consulting firm to design and build a proposed three or five-story garage that would hold about 500 spaces. Currently, Parking Lot N holds 125 spaces. The garage is expected to take 17 months to complete, and "we're probably looking at a \$10 million budget," Schuster said.

The Faculty Senate and University Assembly chose the current placement of Garage N over a suggestion to place a garage north of the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

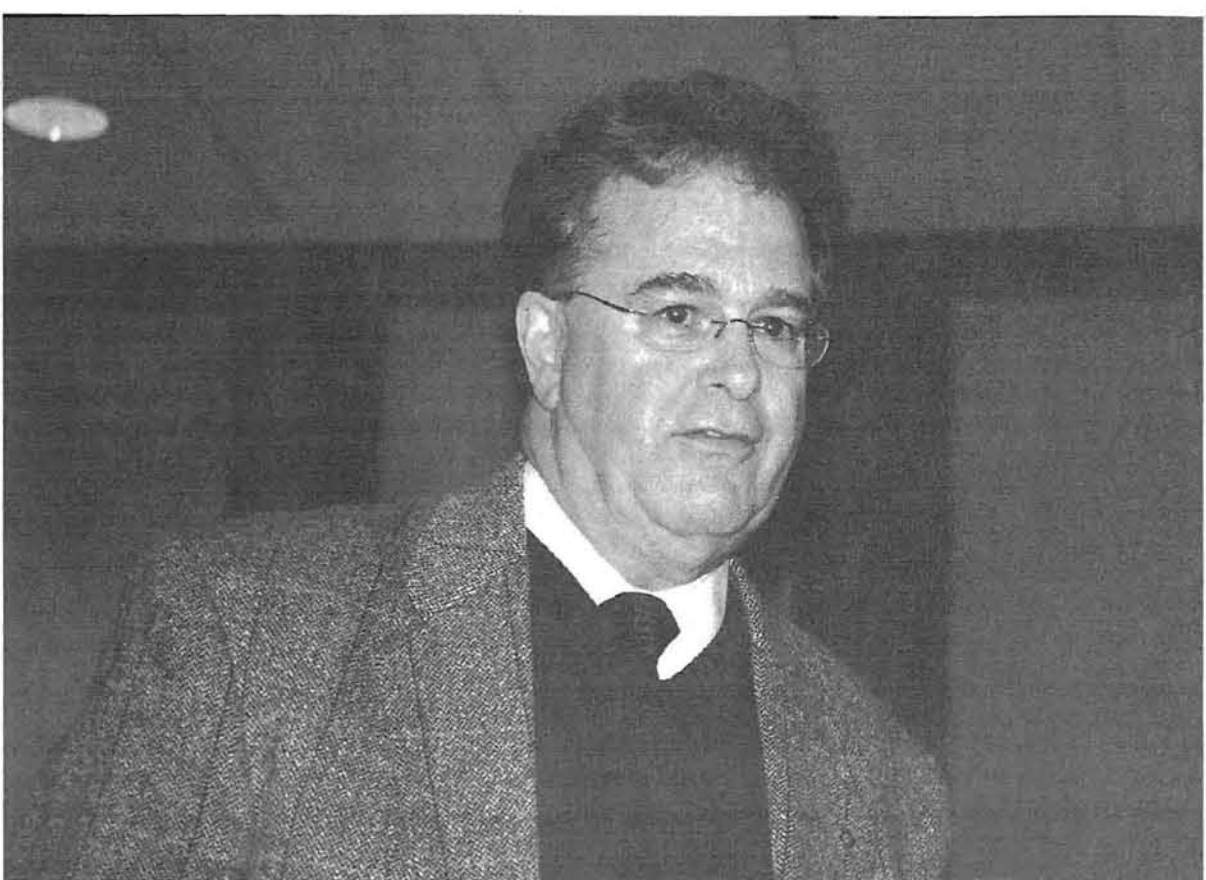
However, Terry Jones, chair of Budget and Planning Committee and professor of political science, questioned the use of the \$10 million budget collected partially from parking fees for building a coffee shop and conference rooms along with the garage. The matter will be discussed at the next Budget and Planning Committee meeting.

Schuster also announced the University is saving money for a new garage on South Campus, which would coincide with the completion of the residential halls by fall semester 2006. Delays to building the garage are due to not enough fees being collected yet.

SGA to hold 'Whine and Dine' and Touhill open house

SGA will host a "Whine and Dine" forum on Tuesday, Nov. 15 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the SGA Chambers. Students are welcome to come and voice their opinions to the SGA executive board members and fellow students. Student leaders will answer questions and share information and campus updates to the audience. The event includes free food and refreshments.

SGA will also host an open house at the Touhill PAC on Tuesday, Nov. 15 starting at 6 p.m. In hopes of increasing student involvement and attendance at the PAC, the SGA will allow students to enjoy free food, take tours of the building and attend one of two free shows.



Valerie Breshears/ The Current

Thomas Gouttierre speaks on Thursday about Afghanistan and global terrorism.

Speaker explains roots of terrorism in Afghanistan

BY SEAN MICHAEL
Staff Writer

On Thursday, a scholar from the University of Nebraska-Omaha visited UM-St. Louis to speak about Afghanistan and the problems of global terrorism in the country.

Thomas E. Gouttierre is dean of international studies and programs at UNO and at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He also serves as director of the Center for Afghanistan Studies at UNO.

Gouttierre spoke about the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, and the help the United States gave to the Afghan people. After the Cold War, the Soviets left, and the U.S. pulled out of Afghanistan and used their funds to help the Soviet Union, according to Gouttierre. He said the Afghan people have a hatred for the U.S., because they were abandoned in their time of need.

Gouttierre described religion as a factor causing terrorism to sprout in Afghanistan. Three cultures, Sunni Muslims, Shiite Muslims, and Sunni Kurds are the prevalent cultures in Islam, Iraq and Afghanistan, according to Gouttierre.

Saddam Hussein came from Iraq, and had nothing to do with the terrorist attacks of 9-11, Gouttierre explained. Out of Islam came Osama Bin Laden to help Afghanistan combat the Soviet Union to drive them out of Afghanistan. He later turned his sights on the United States, Gouttierre noted.

"Osama Bin Laden trained the Arabs living in Afghanistan in terrorism," Gouttierre said, "they first targeted the Saudi monarchy and then the U.S. because they were some-

how connected." According to Gouttierre, Bin Laden believes that the U.S. is on a crusade to undermine Islam.

Gouttierre met a few members of the Taliban, who worked with Bin Laden during the terrorist attacks of 9-11. His task was to initiate a ceasefire, but he did not have any success.

Afghanistan's infrastructure was physically and logistically destroyed, Gouttierre said, making life difficult for Afghans.

"We should have helped the Soviet Union, but we never should have left Afghanistan," Gouttierre said.

"In the '60s and '70s, Afghanistan was an ideal place to live," Gouttierre said. He arrived in Afghanistan as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kabul. He has lived, worked and studied in Afghanistan for about 37 years as a Fulbright Fellow, and later as Executive Director of the Fulbright Foundation in Afghanistan.

He learned the language, which is primarily Persian, and coached basketball there.

"It was a way for me to get in with the community," Gouttierre said. "Afghanistan is kind of a small-town country; you know someone, you know everyone."

The Center for Afghanistan Studies has been marshalling a Reconstruction Campaign for this country.

"We're helping Afghans to start schools, and publish textbooks, and we're training Afghan women to be master teachers," Gouttierre explained.

The UNO plans to improve the intellectual capacity of Afghanistan

for the children living there.

"Around \$9 million in books and training teachers were spent during the Reconstruction effort," Gouttierre said, "and all are Afghanistan employees." He said that the UNO is trying to employ as many Afghans as they can, so that they do not have to spend more money to teach the language to outsiders.

Gouttierre said that the Afghan people are disappointed with the pace of the Reconstruction effort, and they are not happy with non-governmental organizations getting involved.

Gouttierre noted that Bin Laden is responsible for distributing weapons to the Afghan people. "We have done a very good job in disarming Afghanistan of some of the weapons left in that country," he said.

Gouttierre's chief goal is to educate Americans, so that they will not duplicate the mistakes of the past. He wants more people in this country to be aware of the situation in Afghanistan, and to lend a helping hand if necessary.

Gouttierre's speech had the ability to turn some heads. "He has a depth and wealth of knowledge about a place that's so remote for most Americans, who may only know a few headlines," International Studies Coordinator Mike Costello said. He said that it is unfortunate more could not be shared.

Marianne Cain, senior, art history, felt the speech was interesting. "I didn't realize all of the history of Afghanistan; my opinion was based on current news for the past three to four years," she said. "It was very eye-opening."

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4. Thyme Table Cafe
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OPINION

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"Our opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board.

LETTERS

MAIL
The Current
388 Millennium Student Center
1 University Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

FAX
314-516-6811

E-MAIL
current@jinx.ums1.edu

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

Under Current

by Kevin Ottley
Photo Associate

What color crayon are you?

Our Opinion

Student fees: a play-by-play for the new changes

Our non-educational fees pay for nine services, including athletics, student activities, recreation and facilities, student services, health services, ASUM, infrastructure, the University center and the performing arts center.

Last week, the Student Government Association assembly voted the proposed increase of 96 cents. This year five departments requested a raise in student financial support. Here's a breakdown and a play-by-play analysis of the vote.

The athletics department requested a 1.6 percent increase, or 15 cents more per credit hour from students. Doug Boyer, the department's business manager, explained that athletic teams currently travel to and from away games in six-passenger vans or personal vehicles. Athletics decided that transportation is unsafe and want to send teams to matches on buses. Boyer also cited the aging Mark Twain facility as a major cost item requiring regular repairs. The SGA voted to approve this fee, and we think it's a smart move. Student safety should be a priority.

Health Services requested 15 cents more, a 5 percent increase from their previous budget. SGA approved this increase, and The Current thinks the increased student benefit justifies that decision. Health Services plans to hire a full-time nurse to accommodate the large volume of students that utilize the department, and it will continue presenting regular educational tables about health topics.

The University Center fee also increased by 24 cents upon SGA's approval. This fee basically supports the Millennium Student Center. Since past budgets indicate responsible spending and saving, The Current agrees with SGA's decision.

SGA voted against Infrastructure's requested 25-cent increase, a 9.1 percent hike. Infrastructure handles UM-St. Louis' MetroLink and shuttle contracts, among other things. With increasing gas prices and the University's BiState contract quickly approaching, we're concerned that students will lose much more than 25 cents if they have to purchase

MetroLink passes for the standard \$40+ per month. The infrastructure fee increased by 25 cents last year, and several students voiced concern about allowing the fee to rise so consistently and substantially.

The recreation and facilities department did not receive approval for its 6.2 percent increase (17 more cents per hour). The Current supports all athletic involvement on campus, but the budget seemed to indicate that Rec Sports would not receive much more funding, despite the considerable increase request. As the Student Fee Review Committee noted, we hope the department can find alternate funding solutions that won't exist to the detriment of intramurals.

Students shell out upwards of \$40 per credit hour in non-educational fees. Make sure you get your money's worth by taking advantage of the campus programs available because of this money. Attend athletic events, join a Rec Sports team, ride the shuttles and MetroLink, and use the MSC. Don't let your dollars go to waste.

Staff Viewpoint

Bush bears burden of proof for Iraq war

What do apologists for President Bush say when they try to find something positive about the invasion of Iraq?

"Without the invasion, the brutal dictator Saddam Hussein would still run Iraq," or something like it.

It turns out that is probably not true.

According to an Associated Press story, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said on Al-Arabiya TV that the Bush administration knew before the 2003 invasion that Saddam had already offered to resign and go into exile in the United Arab Emirates.

Under the deal brokered by the late president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheik Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Saddam would turn Iraq over to the Arab League which would supervise elections six months later.

However, the Arab League refused to discuss the proposal at its February 2003 summit meeting, because under its rules the League cannot intervene in the internal affairs of its members.

Surely the Bush/Cheney/Rumsfeld administration could have held off the invasion while trying to work

something out.

It was obvious to me in 2002 that Saddam's regime was tottering.

United Nations weapons inspectors had free rein in Iraq.

Under international pressure, Saddam declared an amnesty for political prisoners for Oct. 22, 2002. On that day, according to the New York Times, as the prison doors opened families of prisoners streamed in as the hideous chambers of horror emptied.

At the end of the day, Iraq held no prisoners. Unfortunately, families of

missing persons learned that those not released almost certainly perished in custody.

If you don't remember any news stories from the war of our soldiers freeing prisoners, you haven't forgotten any. There were no prisoners to liberate. Instead, our troops began the ugly business of filling them back up.

Let's see, President Bush sent more than 2,000 U.S. soldiers and more than 26,000 Iraqi civilians to their deaths to unseat a dictator who was trying to resign, because we claimed he threatened the world with weapons of mass destruction that he did not have and to further the war on terrorism when he had no connection to active terrorists.

The invasion has served as a recruiting tool for the most dangerous terrorists, Al Qaida and its allies, and has hindered our efforts in Afghanistan where Al Qaida was based.

If it were the script of a black comedy, no one would believe it.

I'm not laughing.

War is serious business. Those who wage war bear the burden of proof.

The Rogue Librarian

Library invests in million-plus information retrieval devices

RALEIGH MUNS
UMSL Reference Librarian

First, a quick follow-up on the ongoing controversy regarding the banning of Martin Handford's *Where's Waldo* books. Turns out that the reason this book became one of the top 100 banned books between 1990 and 2000 wasn't an urban legend after all. On the page with the beach scene in the upper right-hand quadrant a boy is applying an ice cream cone to the back of an unsuspecting sun bather. As she rises up in startlement, sans bikini top, the problematic anatomy is clearly visible. I will be testing the limits of the campus press by sending in a scanned shot of the picture with this column for the editor's publication consideration.

I must confess to being a bit of a geek (no, not the kind that bites the heads off chickens) as entranced with new technologies as anyone. In that vein, I have to share my recent discovery of a startling information technology which can operate independent of Internet connections. Furthermore, the energy consumption requirements of these devices are less

than that of a PDA or cell phone. They are created by extruding cellulose molecular constructs into thin plates which are milled to mere microns of thickness. Next, the plates are assembled to create a Portable Analog Sequential Information Storage and Retrieval Device (PASISRD). Chemical pigment is applied to the surface area of each milled extruded cellulose plate and requires only solar, or other artificial light to create

enough contrast to perceive the stored information.

I was pleased to find that UMSL has been investing in this technology since the inception of the University. The Libraries currently own over one million such devices and allow faculty staff and students to take them home for weeks and even months at a time. I have found that many of the good folks who come to the Reference Desk are only interested in online resources. In their eagerness to embrace technological convenience they often overlook the rich array of PASISRDs available to them.

If you just walk by our extensive PASISRD collection (they are on shelves on every floor of every campus library) you can serendipitously discover fascinating troves of portable information. The Thomas Jefferson Library even has a New PASISRDs section right across from the Reference Desk. If you like what you see, feel free to take the PASISRD to the Circulation Desk where all you need is your UMSL ID in order to obtain temporary custody. Or ask this Rogue PASISRDarian for his recommendations. Might I suggest that erotic classic *Where's Waldo*?



Editor's Opinion

Faith apparently a crime

Public school policy has made 'Jesus' a naughty word and shared faith a punishable offense.

The most recent uproar comes after two Philadelphia Eagles players presented a motivational program at a Delaware high school. According to a story released by the Associated Press, the players, Tra Thomas and Thomas Tapeh, said their overall message to students was, "Be a leader, not a follower. Don't worry about what everybody else is doing."

Thomas is the founder of Athletes United for Christ. During part of his speech he encouraged students to attend a faith-based youth rally this month, and he integrated his organization's spiritual values into his discussion.

Thomas said he shares his beliefs with young people as a way to connect on a deeper level.

Enraged parents have contacted the school, and administrators are responding claiming they had no idea the program would contain non-secular conversation.

I'll set aside my major issues for a moment and point out the first fallacy here: claiming ignorance is a cop out. I'm sure the school paid big bucks to have professional athletes visit. Caveat emptor, guys. Let the buyer beware. If you don't know what you're paying for, you deserve what you get.

Back to the bigger problem. I'm no proponent of forcing religion on people, nor do I advocate any sort of mandatory prayer-like activity in public schools. However, faith-phobia has hit record highs, and we're starting to treat sharing spiritual beliefs like a disease.

"Don't talk about religion in school, kids. You might catch something you don't want."

The director of Delaware's American Civil Liberties Union stated, "Organizations like this one across the

country are gaining access to schools through famous people and entertainment value and then using those opportunities to proselytize," according to AP reports.

Where is the concerned ACLU when famous people use their celebrity status to spout political rhetoric? Or when teachers make not-so-offhand political comments in their classrooms?

Many argue that tired, old "I don't want anyone else teaching my kids about values."

Then teach them yourself. Even if they grow out of agreeing with you, at least you gave it your best effort. Don't freak out when you or your kids are exposed to different spiritual viewpoints. Use instances like the Eagles athlete's speech to open dialogue with your family and friends about faith.

Spiritual dialogue doesn't infect children; if anything, it makes them curious. Why do so many fight religious discourse in a school setting? They're afraid of challenging their own beliefs. Worse, they're afraid their kids will start challenging their household religious principles.

Rather than waste time on the phone with frazzled principals, parents should sit down with their kids and discuss the role of religion in a person's life. Young people need to learn the value of tolerance and diversity. I don't care if you're Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Athiest, Taoist, Pagan or Church of Bob-ist, it's important that we all understand spirituality's place in society.

Professional athletes take a lot of heat for not living up to the role model persona. The media has defamed so many for taking performance enhancing drugs, partying too hard, engaging in violence and objectifying women. Now parents are crucifying the ones who tried to spread a positive message by introducing personal faith.



KATE DROLET
Managing Editor

Volunteering clarifies values

With the recent devastations from Hurricane Rita, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Wilma, thousands of Americans have come together to provide community service to the victims, who have lost all of their personal belongings.

Besides the people who were involved in the hurricanes needing assistance, many people throughout the United States are homeless, poor, starving and suffer from financial problems everyday.

People should devote a little bit of time in their lives, to help others through community service and volunteer opportunities.

Students at UM-St. Louis have the chance to show their consideration and morality by giving back to and helping the community in the month of November.

The fourth annual "Month of Service," sponsored by the Office of Student Life will have a variety of service participation events all month long.

This year, the Office of Student Life has planned numerous activities such as American

Red Cross blood drives, Habitat for Humanity Construction Projects, soup lines in the Nosh, a hunger banquet, a Texas Hold'em for Hunger Tournament and a 36 hour game-a-thon, to make students aware of world problems and to raise money for local charities.

Even though November is the "Month of Service," help is needed all the time. It is great that one particular month is devoted to community service, but providing service is an activity that should be done year long.

There are many St. Louis agencies like the Christian Service Center, Inc., the St. Vincent Children's Home, Americorps, Camp Wyman, the St. Patrick's Center, Operation Food Search, the Faith House Village and the St. Louis Humane Society, that need people's help.

Whether it be volunteering at a homeless shelter, a food bank, an animal shelter or assisting at a non-profit organization, every form of service helps the community.

Working with community service not only benefits the whole community, but it also provides benefits to those who participate.

Knowing that you are lending a hand to the less fortunate and to those in need gives people a sense of self-pride and dignity. Volunteering with community service also builds people's character, gives people a higher self-esteem and can be a valuable learning experience.

Volunteers not only lend a helping hand, but they also lend out their heart. UM-St. Louis students should do the same and work together to show their unselfishness and how much they care with helping the world.



MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor



Todd Sanson
Junior, Psych & Communication



Josh Twilbeck
Junior, Education



Anne McPartland
Graduate Student, Education



Jonas Zakour
Senior, Business Administration

I'd be an avocado green. Avocados go well with nachos and so do I!

Electric Blue. I like blue and electric leads to a feeling of craziness.

I'm a cornstarch blue. It was one of my favorites growing up.

Bodacious brown. When you mix all the colors together you get brown, representing my unique ability to blend with everyone.

Science Column

Random thoughts on the Asian Bird Flu; Is U.S. prepared for outbreak?

Bird flu seems to be getting closer to the possibility of an epidemic, with continuing reports of some human to human transmission in Asia. If it reaches the point where it moves easily from person to person, we may get a global pandemic. It has happened before, in 1918, when "Spanish flu" killed more people than World War I did as it was winding up at that time. But we might have another worry now: with the poor response to Hurricane Katrina, what can we expect if the pandemic comes here?

In emergency preparedness, hurricanes are straightforward, and as easy as disaster planning gets. Unlike earthquakes, or most other natural disasters, they give plenty of warning. We can see them coming, measure their strength, and see their moves. Most natural disasters do not give us so much time to prepare. And we know what to do, to evacuate, deal with risks of flooding, rescue the stranded. We have the tools to deal with the problems.

It is not the same for a killer influenza epidemic. We will need every

resource and everything must be working at top efficiency.

Most of the time, flu is an uncomfortable but not fatal disease, which poses the greatest threat to the very young or old and those already ill. But flu is a slippery disease. The virus that causes influenza is always mutating, by recombining its parts with other strains of the virus to create new strains. I have written on the details of flu infection and mutation before but we will look at the bigger picture today.

There are many strains of flu, and the different strains infect different species. While the disease is usually not fatal in people, it is often a killer for birds. Flu infects both wild and domestic birds, horses, pigs and other animals. However, the greatest danger from flu is when a strain that generally occurs in one species makes the jump to another species. A strain that naturally occurs in one species may not cause serious illness in its native host but the result can be a killer variant when it crosses the species barrier, where few, if any, of that species

have resistance to the new strain.

Recently, researchers have detected a strain of horse flu that has been transmitted to dogs in the U.S. Although still confined to a few states, veterinarians are watching the disease for further spread among dogs or if it spreads to cats. Crossing the species barrier is the first step in the development of a pandemic strain of flu.

Since 2003, health organizations have been watching strains of bird flu that have produced fatal infections in people in several Asian countries. Worldwide, there have been 116 cases of people infected with bird flu and 65 of these people have died. Most of these cases have been due to transmission from sick birds but not all of them.

Many public health workers and researchers are focused on the virulent H5N1 strain of flu but a recent study



BY CATE MARQUIS
Science Columnist

published in the Oct. 1 issue of the Journal of Infectious Diseases examines cases of less virulent strains of bird flu, such as H7N1 and H7N3, being transmitted to humans. The concern is that the bird flu infecting these people might recombine with human strains to produce a variant that can easily be transmitted from person to person, leading to a worldwide epidemic.

Should we be concerned about bird flu? So far, most fatal cases of the disease are found among people in Vietnam and other Asian countries. For many years, researchers have worked year round to develop vaccines and treatments for flu and every year, there is a new flu vaccine. But that vaccine will not protect against bird flu, or any other pandemic.

However, in June 2004, a division of the National Institutes of Health awarded

contracts to develop a vaccine against the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of avian flu. Vaccine development is challenging in flu, partially because the virus is so changeable and partially because the methods required to develop a flu vaccine take months.

Most plans for coping with the appearance of a pandemic strain involve close monitoring of outbreaks, and aggressive treatment with anti-viral agents at the first outbreak, with the intention of stopping the pandemic before it starts.

The new study, mentioned above, indicates that other, less closely watched strains of bird flu have jumped the species barrier and is cause for concern, if both monitoring and vaccine efforts are focused only on the H5N1 strain.

Since the fatal infections have been in Asia, should we worry in the U.S.? How would it arrive here? One possibility is through migrating wild birds. Another is through imported poultry. Yet another is through ordinary travel, of infected people who are not yet showing symptoms.

The Swiss are monitoring imported domestic birds and migrating wild birds, and are stockpiling anti-viral agents, according to Swiss news reports. News outlet Ireland Online reports that a British-Brazilian effort will start producing bird flu vaccine early next year. On Sept. 30, Reuters news service reported that the U.S. Senate voted this past week to add \$4 billion to efforts to stockpile anti-viral agents and to increase surveillance for an outbreak. The provision was attached to a military spending bill, and at least one senator opposed it. Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) asserted that he would try to kill the provision when the Senate and House started work on reconciling their versions of the Pentagon spending bill.

No one knows if there will really be a pandemic or when it might occur, although scientists have been warning about the threat since 2003. But wouldn't you rather be prepared? After what happened after Hurricane Katrina, the American people might want to give this some thought.



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the week's
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Soup Line
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'Women in the Arts' founder wins art award

BY BRIAN E. OLIVER
Staff Writer

Barbara Harbach, music professor at UM-St. Louis, was one of four individuals recognized at the 2006 Missouri Arts Commission Awards, the state's highest honor in the arts.

On Feb. 8, 2006, she will be awarded the Missouri Arts Council Award for Art and Education Leadership by Governor Matt Blunt.

Barbara Harbach's passion for music began when she was only four years old as she observed her older brother taking piano lessons.

Fascinated by what she saw, "I begged and begged and my mother finally gave in."

Shortly after she began her own lessons, she knew that this was what she wanted to do for the rest of her life.

"Life is my music and music is my life," she said. "Music is something you have to do. It's a passion."

Harbach's passion has brought her widespread notoriety and international fame, but it has not always been easy.

She began her professional music career working at Christian churches where she had her first anthem published while she was still in her 20s. The beginning of her music career brought her excitement. However, after receiving about 250 rejections, she saw that getting pieces published was not easy.

Another difficulty that Harbach faced was when she went to study in Germany with an internationally known pedagogue who did not believe women were supposed to be musicians and who put up a lot of stumbling

blocks. Harbach did not quit with the understudy work, although this conflict did make the experience quite a struggle.

In 1993, Harbach founded Women of Note Quarterly, a journal featuring women creators. She also helped found Vivachi Press, which seeks to represent underrepresented composers, including women, African American, American Jewish, Mexican and Ukrainian composers.

She has toured extensively as a concert organist and harpsichordist. Her appearances have included recitals throughout North America, Europe and Asia, as well as solo and continuo roles with symphony orchestras.

In 2003, she and her husband, Chancellor Thomas George, came to UM-St. Louis. She began working in the music department and has found great pleasure working at UM-St. Louis ever since. Harbach said that the UM-St. Louis music department is continuing to grow.

"It's exciting to be a part of that. We have the Touhill. We have 46 new majors."

She said that it is also very exciting being the chancellor's wife because "I get to meet so many interesting, wonderful people. It's people. People make the world go round. It broadens my life to meet people."

James Richards, professor and chair of music, said that UM-St. Louis got an extraordinary musician when they hired Harbach.

"She is a composer, an expert of music technology, an author and a publisher," Richards said. "She filled a lot of gaps. Her collective expertise was a

really good fit for what we didn't have."

Richards said that Harbach's work with putting together concerts from women composers over all areas of history is exciting because they get to do something that the St. Louis Symphony cannot.

"We get to explore music that has fallen through the cracks," he said.

Richards said that another way Harbach has helped the music department has been her contacts with those in the community at large. As the wife of Chancellor George, Harbach used a lot of the contacts she made in the community to help the music department grow.

Harbach's work has impressed several of her colleagues, which led to her nomination for the Missouri Arts Commission Award.

Diane Toulaitos, professor of music and director for Center of Humanities, nominated Harbach for the

Toulaitos said she nominated Harbach because of her dedication to music and because of the love of music she brings to the UM-St. Louis campus.

"What Barbara has done is a milestone. She's had over 800 events dealing with Women in the Arts. She's had a concert for every historical period. That's never been done anywhere else in the world. It's an international milestone what she has done," Toulaitos said.

Harbach's passion for music and her passion for life seem particularly evident in the advice she gives to others.

"Your happiness and success are not attached to one particular thing," she said. "They come from within. Embrace life. Squeeze it all you can."



Adam Wiseman/ The Current

Barbara Harbach, professor of music, plays on her harpsichord on Wednesday afternoon.

A pint of compassion ...



Valerie Breshears/ The Current

Peggy Chan donates blood Wednesday afternoon at the Blood Drive sponsored by Student Life.

Veterans Day honors those who served

BY PATRICIA LEE
Features Associate Editor

On Friday, people throughout the St. Louis area and across the country celebrated Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor millions of men and women who have served their country in the Armed Forces and in the National Guard. Veterans Day was marked with reflection, celebrations and parades across the country.

"To me, we're remembering the people who have come before us," said David Dodd, senior, international business. Currently serving as a staff sergeant in the Marine reserves, Dodd spent a year in Iraq but said that even for those who have served in military combat, the holiday is more about honoring fallen heroes.

"I think it's a very important day to honor military servicemen," said John Eckhoff, veterans services manager for the St. Louis County Department of Human Services. "They've taken time out of their life to serve the country and when they return home, their lives are completely changed."

"When you go away to do your job, when you come back, all your peers are ahead of you. When you come back to your job, everyone has been promoted and all of a sudden you're at the bottom. I only spent two years but when I came back, my friends were married and they were socially and economically two years ahead of me," Eckhoff said.

"The difficult part is it takes time out of my life. I was in the middle of my junior year when I got called to Iraq," Dodd said. "But I value what I have learned and how I have grown through being in the Marines."

After serving, many veterans return to civilian jobs or continue their education. More than 260 veterans are enrolled at UM-St. Louis.

"If you need help from someone, a lot of times veterans are going to be the ones to step in," Eckhoff said. "The first responders—firemen, policemen, EMT—a lot of them are veterans who carry their passion on to new jobs."

With the ongoing conflict in Iraq, many people also took a day to honor friends and family serving in the Armed Forces.

"It has more relevance to people who normally aren't involved," Dodd said. "We have comrades all across the country who have relatives and friends and it's more personal in that sense."

While Veterans Day is a federal holiday, many businesses no longer observe it. "For a lot of people, it's a day off but in a lot of cases they have Memorial Day as a trade-off," Eckhoff said.

Photo exhibit shows Afghanistan's struggle

BY MELISSA McCrARY
Features Editor

Zalmai, an Afghan born photographer who was in exile for over 23 years, displays photos of his return to his homeland.

The exhibition in Gallery 210, "Return to Afghanistan," shows how Afghan citizens try to make a living despite famine, war and destruction.

Terri Suhre, director of Gallery 210, said the main focus of all the images feature people or show evidence of the people through images of buildings, equipment or cultural artifacts.

"I feel the purpose of Mr. Zalimai's photographs are intended to inform the viewer of the current situation in his native country and to bring to us the beauty and resilience of its people," Suhre said. "It is also to humanize the people who are living in a difficult and dangerous time."

In 1980, when Zalimai was 15 years old, the Soviets invaded his country and his parents forced him and his brother to leave their hometown in Kabul. Both Zalimai and his brother traveled across desert for many days before reaching the border of Pakistan.

Sixteen years later, Zalimai moved

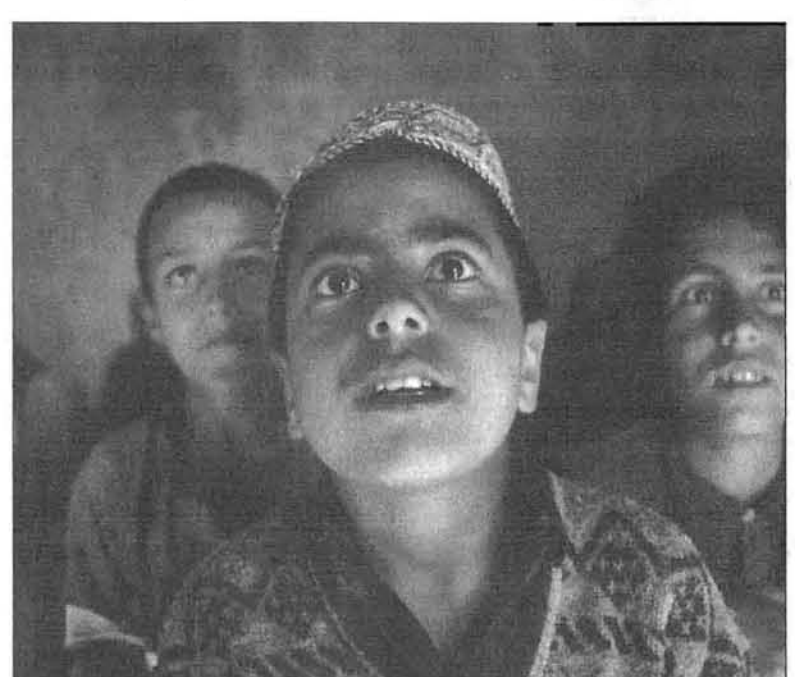


Image courtesy of Zalmai and Gallery 210

Afghan photographer Zalmai's exhibit "Return to Afghanistan" is on display at Gallery 210 until Dec. 10.

to Europe and became not only a Swiss citizen, but a photography lover. While working for a French newspaper in 1996, Zalimai was given the opportunity to revisit his homeland and complete a photography assignment. This sparked his interest in photographing the country. He continued to photograph the

aftermath of the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

When returning to Afghanistan, Zalimai noticed how all that remained of this once beautiful city were ruins and ashes. Even after 23 years, the Taliban were still fighting for power and bombs were being dropped.

Through his photographs, Zalmai

wants to show the world how the people are continuing to suffer day to day. He shows how people still endure fighting not only from war, but also hunger and illness.

"Afghanistan, prior to the tragedy of 9/11, was little known in this country except among scholars, persons in the State Department and the CIA," Suhre said. "Now this country is at the center of a geopolitical struggle. What is interesting to me is that the artist gives the land a context and a human face."

Over 78 photographs are on display and reveal the deconstruction and the rebuilding process of Afghanistan.

Some of his portraits include a temporary school at the Maslakh camp west of Herat, where young boys attend classes hoping one day to go to a proper school in their home villages, refugees hiding in caves, the shell of a bus serving as a makeshift school, homeless trying to make a living amid the ruins of the capital, citizens living in the middle of the desert, portraits, people returning from exile to find their homes and all of their belongings destroyed and diminished and internally displaced reverberates.

see **AFGHANISTAN**, page 10

see **VETERANS DAY**, page 10

UMSL prepares for Thanksgiving holiday

BY BRIAN OLIVER
Staff Writer

Now that October has come and gone, many UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff have begun preparing for two important events – the end of semester finals, which take place in December, and the Thanksgiving holiday break which begins next week.

For many people at UM-St. Louis, Thanksgiving will be a time to offer thanks, a time to get together with family and a time to celebrate with the traditional turkey, stuffing and pumpkin pie.

Such is the case with Brandi Lunsford, junior, pre-veterinary medicine. For Thanksgiving, "I'm hanging out with my kids," she said.

For Roseanne Rahmberg, senior, psychology, and Tasha Morrison, senior, anthropology, Thanksgiving will also be spent with family, but there will be multiple stops along the way.

Rahmberg has plans for at least three stops. "First, I'm going to my boyfriend's grandparents house, then I'm going to my brother's house and then on Friday I'm going to have turkey at my house," Rahmberg said.

Morrison's Thanksgiving had even more stops planned.

"Usually I have at least four places to go to eat dinner (last year I had 5), so I spend more time on the road than I do at any one place," Morrison said.

"We generally start at my aunt's house around 2 p.m., then go to either my husband's family or my Ethiopian friend's house to have dinner with her family. Eating at her house puts a twist on a traditional American

Thanksgiving since they cook their turkey much differently than we do. Then around 6 p.m. we'll head to my grandmother's house for dinner there. This is about the fourth year I have spent Thanksgiving this way. I have to be since I'm grateful to have all these wonderful people in my life," Morrison said.

Many students have plans to leave the St. Louis area for the Thanksgiving weekend.

Nicole Wolf, graduate student, criminology and criminal justice, said, "I will be traveling to Ohio and spending the Thanksgiving holiday with Nick, my fiancé's, parents. This is the first Thanksgiving in 23, almost 24 in January, years that I will not be spend Thanksgiving with my family in Iowa. But due to the fact that I am getting married, I will have to start flip-flopping holidays."

Along with Wolf's trip to Ohio, Charles Amoako, graduate student, economics, has plans to go to Michigan to visit his cousin. Janelle Dobson, senior, music education, is planning to travel to Texas to visit her in-laws and Heather Thames, senior, business administration, is thinking about possibly flying to Baltimore and going sailing.

Not all students have plans that include traditional Thanksgiving meals, however.

Yanfeng Li, graduate student, economics, grew up in China and therefore does not have the traditional American background which guides many other students. Therefore she does not plan on having turkey. Instead, she said, "I may go to a Chinese restaurant with some of my friends. I haven't decided."

Jennifer Shasserre, sophomore, art history, will not be eating turkey because she is a vegetarian. She still will be celebrating Thanksgiving, and said, "We traditionally do a Wednesday night vegetarian meal. Then Thursday we go to other functions but don't eat."

Melissa Pashia, freshman, secondary education, was unsure of what she was doing for Thanksgiving and found herself in a similar situation as Shasserre.

Pashia said, "I don't even know what I'm doing for Thanksgiving. I've always cooked my own Thanksgiving meals, but the space at school makes it harder to have people over. Plus I'm a vegetarian, so I don't even eat turkey."

Not everyone gets off from work on Thanksgiving, though. For Gabriel Crocker, graduate student, criminology and criminal justice, his job as a police officer requires him to work when others do not.

"I have a relatively unforgiving schedule when it comes to the holiday season," Crocker said. "My family has been very gracious in adjusting holiday activities so that I may celebrate with them."

One thing that most students will not be doing during Thanksgiving week, however, is spending much time on campus as there will be limited activities at school during the holiday period.

There are no classes scheduled for Thanksgiving week and most computer labs will be closed during Thanksgiving week. Additionally, the Millennium Student Center and campus libraries will both be closed on Nov. 24 and Nov. 25 and will be operating on limited hours Nov. 21 through Nov. 23.



Night Vision

Gordon Stangler, Astronomy tutor, focuses in on constellations for the Astronomy students on Thursday Night. The Observatory holds open houses for students and the public throughout the year.

Adam Wiseman/ The Current

'Diwali Night' delights UMSL crowd

BY EBONY HAIRSTON
Staff Writer

Diwali Night 2005, held Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. in the Pilot House, was a cultural extravaganza that informed and entertained all that came. Named for India's festival of lights, the Indian Students Association was organized with the help of students from Washington University and international students from all over the globe put on a wonderful show.

The students worked hard for about a month to put the whole thing together. According to Altuf Shamsi, president of the Indian Students Association, all of the hard work was worth it to represent his country in such a spectacular way.

"The purpose of India night is to show people Indian culture, and show

what we do in our country," Shamsi said.

In addition, Shamsi found that one of the best parts about putting together Diwali Night was the sense of unity it creates.

"It feels really good because, we're far away from home. People from the north and from the south have different cultures and this brings all of us together," said Shamsi.

The night featured a range of performances that included classical Indian dancing by Soorya Dance Company, complete with the swirling of skirts and fancy footwork, a rap song, and Bollywood (epic, musical Indian films) inspired dances. There was also traditional drum music that entertained the crowd with a flurry of beats and a fashion show that showed off the beauty and variety of Indian style with its brilliant colors and intricate patterns. For the performers, a lot of the enjoyment came out of the preparation.

"We practiced for almost a month to get ready. Dance practices were a lot of fun, and so was going for breaks at Jack and the Box," said participant, Nikhil Luktuke, master's student, biotechnology.

A buffet dinner of Indian foods provided by India Palace capped off the night. They served dishes such as tandoori chicken, chicken curry, vegetable paneer and tikka masala. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time.

"It was very impressive, very laid back," sophomore Adam Bracegirdle said. "It gave the audience a good taste of Indian culture, and sets a good precedent for next year."

NO PRETENSIONS.



NO FUSS.



NO BOWTIES.



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EDITOR

CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor
phone: 516-5174
fax: 516-6811

Seoul in St. Louis:

Korean artists shine in PAC performance

BY LAURA AYERS
Staff Writer

Tuesday, Nov. 8, audiences were thrilled with the Seoul Performing Arts Company's St. Louis stop. Korean Dance: Tradition and Culture was a spectacular performance that brought movement, music, and magic to the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Part of an American tour sponsored by the Korean Society, Korean Dance: Tradition and Culture stopped at UM-St. Louis for one night. It was performed in two acts in the Lee Theatre. The first act consisted of six separate dances: the Dance of Ch'oyong, the Sword Dance, an Improvised Dance, the Dongnae Crane Dance, the Instruction Dance, and the Fan Dance. The Dance of Ch'oyong, or Ch'oyongmu, has five male dancers, each one representing a direction by the color of the costume. North is black, south is red, east is blue, west is white, and center is yellow. The five men are masked and provide musical accompaniment with the drums they carry.

The Sword Dance, or Tonggyong Kommu, is performed with a military preciseness as the dancers brandish their swords. As the swords flash, the dancers move with a purposeful serenity that leaves the audience with a soldier's impression. Before the Improvised Dance, or Ipch'um, a Taegum solo filled the air of the theatre. The Taegum is a bamboo instrument that is more piercing than a flute. Its eerie beauty cast a spell over the audience as the dancer moved onto the stage.

Although remarkable dances, the Dongnae Crane Dance, Dongnae Hak ch'um, and the Instruction Dance, Hullyongmu, paled in comparison to the last dance of the first act, the Fan Dance. The Fan Dance, Puch'aech'um, is performed with many dancers in bright costumes. They work together and move about the stage with giant fans of painted blossoms until the very end where they come together to make an enormous flower.

The second act was completely taken up by the Farmer's Band Dance, or Nongak. Using peasant activities and simple life as its theme, this dance brings the audience into the lives of poor farmers. It is a joyous dance, celebrating life and music. The music was provided by the dancers with barrel drums, hourglass drums, and gongs. Dancers moved about with so much pleasure, audience members were drawn into the spirit. A long standing ovation greeted the fall of the curtain until the dancers came back for one last minute on the stage.

A wonderful performance such as this stays with an audience member long after he or she has left the theatre. The foreign sounds and sights please the soul even while it challenges the ideas of beauty that each culture holds intrinsically.

Author's chilling tale comes to life in 'Capote'

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

In "Capote," actor Philip Seymour Hoffman turns in a stunning performance as author Truman Capote in this film about Capote's writing of his great "non-fiction novel" about the brutal murder of a rural Kansas family.

Hoffman seems to be channeling Capote rather than mimicking the flamboyant Capote's mannerisms, which are so familiar that it would have been easy for his portrayal to fall into parody. Rather than cover the author's whole life, this film focuses only on the research and writing of Capote's "In Cold Blood."

New York based and well-connected in literary society, author Truman Capote (Philip Seymour Hoffman) focused on a seemingly unlikely event, the sensational murder of an entire rural Kansas family, as the subject for his planned "non-fiction novel." From the beginning, Capote is convinced that the form of the book will revolutionize literature. To help with his research and better communicate with the rural Kansas people who may be put off by his mannerisms, the urbane, fey Capote takes along his childhood friend, Nell Harper Lee (Catherine Keener), whose bestselling book, "To Kill A Mockingbird," is on the verge of being published.

In Kansas, Capote and Lee set out



to uncover the facts of the crime with journalistic fervor. When two young petty criminals, Perry Smith (Clifton Collins Jr.) and Dick Hickock (Mark Pellegrino) are arrested, Capote meets the pair. Capote is strangely drawn to and maybe even smitten with the young, handsome Smith. Perry is artis-

tic and his childhood was as troubled as Truman's own. Smith and Hickock have a long history of petty crime but claim to be innocent of the murders. By paying for their defense, Capote gains unprecedented access and their trust. Still, Capote is also the ruthless professional as he extracts the facts he

needs for the book that he is confident will be his masterpiece.

Hoffman is familiar to audiences of smaller, independent films in starring roles like "Love Liza" and in supporting roles in a variety of bigger budget films like "Cold Mountain" and the Coen brothers' "The Big Lebowski."

He is an actor's actor, noted for the rich variety of characters he has created, but this film should bring him a new level of recognition.

Besides Hoffman's splendid performance, Keener is outstanding as Capote's long-suffering and supportive friend Lee in one of the best performances of her career.

Shot in black and white like a gritty 1950s crime film, the film captures nuances of the time and Capote's character. The death wish fascination with the accused Perry grows at the same time that Capote becomes repulsed by what he has done. While drawn to the common threads of their childhood, Capote is keenly aware of their different choices in life. At one point, Capote says it is as if they grew up in the same house but left by different doors, his to become a writer and Perry's to become a criminal. As the author tries to pry out the final facts that will let him finish his book, he is thrown into an emotional pressure cooker of conflicted feelings.

The film skillfully takes you inside the author's world and inner circle. It has a gritty tension and realism as we follow Capote's journey inside the crime. The tension is thick and pacing and as taut as any well-crafted psychological thriller, but that we are following the unfolding of real events.

"Capote" is one of a handful of Oscar worthy films already out. Put this one on your must-see list.

Spend wisely: digital music player options

BY MABEL SUEN
Night Life Editor

Digital music players are everywhere around the UM-St. Louis campus. People are constantly rushing from class to class with music piping into their heads through various types of headphones. With personal music collections at hand, students can avoid the bustling action around them, relieve some stress that comes from their workloads or even use the music as an aid to studying. What type of MP3 player is most suitable for you?

Portable media devices are becoming smaller and more versatile. There are hundreds of MP3 players on the market these days. It is important when shopping for them to look for one that fits your lifestyle and budget. Three major distributors emerge from the sea of competitors: Sony, Apple, and Creative.

Compact discs do not have to be a thing of the past. For students who wish to listen to a variety of tunes but are not willing to invest a large amount of money into a player, Sony offers a line of Walkman products that can play songs in CD-R/RW, MP3 and

ATRAC3 formats.

ATRAC3, an advanced audio compression technology, allows storage of approximately 490 songs on a regular CD. These songs can be organized into folders for easy access and can be played through different listening options.

Powered by one battery that lasts for 41 hours, Sony Walkman products come in contemporary styles and can be found at your local electronics store. With prices ranging from \$39.99 to \$69.99, consumers can choose from extras such as remote controllers and built-in AM/FM tuners.

Apple's iPod has gained more popularity and success than any other portable media player on the market today. Currently, Apple offers three different types of MP3 players: iPod, iPod nano and iPod shuffle.

Today's iPod is far more advanced than its previous versions. Now with a 2.5 inch full color screen and capabilities for music, photos, podcasts and video, it comes in capacities of 30 gigabytes (7500 songs) for \$299 and 60 gigabytes (15,000 songs) for \$399. It has enough space for 25,000 photos and 150 hours of video. Roughly the

size of a deck of playing cards, iPod has a 20-hour rechargeable battery life and comes in white or black.

The iPod nano, the latest in innovations from Apple, is a simpler, much smaller alternative to the regular iPod and replaces the previously popular but now obsolete iPod mini. Weighing only 1.5 ounces, iPod nano has a 1.5 inch color screen that displays both full color album art and thousands of photographs. At capacities of 2 gigabytes (500 songs) for \$199 and 4 gigabytes (1000 songs) for \$249, this surprisingly sleek, pencil-thin player has a 14-hour rechargeable battery life and is perfect for people on the go.

Yet another more compact option is the iPod shuffle, a pocket-size player no bigger than a pack of gum. This tiny technology weighs less than a car key and comes in 512 megabytes (120 songs) for \$99 and 1 gigabyte (240 songs) for \$129. With basic controls and an included lanyard, users can listen to songs at random out of their favorite collections whether it is during the walk between classes or while working out in the gym.

When purchased at the Apple store, students with ID cards receive a 10

percent discount. With these savings, accessories of all sorts such as remotes, armbands and colorful protective cases can be bought.

While Apple is the leader among MP3 players, Creative offers slightly cost friendlier products with its "Zen" line. At about 30 percent less than the cost of iPods, the Zen line does not have color screen or photo capabilities (yet) but comes with FM radio, voice recording and a removable battery - all components that iPod lacks.

Zen Jukebox Xtra compares to the regular iPod with 30 gigabytes for \$219.99, 40 gigabytes for \$229.99 and 60 gigabytes at \$299.99, while Zen Micro compares to iPod nano with 4, 5 and 6 gigabyte capacities ranging from \$79.99 to \$199.99. With an illustrious glowing blue screen, Zen also allows users to personalize their players by choosing from a variety of 10 bright body colors.

For more information on these products as well as others, check out www.sony.com, www.apple.com and www.creative.com.



What are you listening to?

Miyoshi Crawford
senior, English
Listening to:
Slow Jam
Player of choice:
CD player, but also owns an iPod mini and Creative Zen



Altin Sila, sophomore, political science
Listening to:
Jimi Hendrix
Player of choice:
original iPod



Jewish mysticism is focus of family drama 'Bee Season'

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

The bee in the title of the new film "Bee Season" refers to spelling bees but much of the film centers on Jewish mysticism and kabbalah. Against the canvas of that unlikely combination, the film is really a drama about a family falling apart, an unraveling that begins when the father becomes fixated by his young daughter's unexpected talent for spelling. Talent is often called "God-given" and he sees her talent for words as a hint that she may have a gift for mystic abilities that have eluded him.

It is rare for Hollywood to take on a serious topic but this combination is particularly unusual. Spelling bee competitions captured the imagination of the American public with documentary film "Spellbound" but spelling is only part of this story. The story delves into the area of Jewish mysticism, of madness and obsession, and of parents trying to live out their own dreams through their children.

"Bee Season" is the story of a comfortable middle-class Jewish family, the Naumanns, who live in a world of intellectual and artistic pursuits, driven by the strong-willed father Saul. Teenager Aaron (Max Minghella) plays violin and tennis with his demanding college professor father Saul (Richard Gere), who teaches religion and Jewish mysticism. His mother Miriam (Juliette Binoche) is French, a Catholic who converted to Judaism and shares her husband's interest in kabbalah. Eleven-year-old Eliza Naumann (Flora Cross) feels overlooked by her father. When she wins her school's spelling bee, allowing her to go the district-wide competition, she shyly slips the notice from the



school, rather than directly hand it to her father, where it remains hidden among the other papers on the floor. On the day of the competition, she asks her older brother Aaron to drive her there, convinced that it was so unimportant to her father that he never bothered to mention it. When Ellie wins again and returns home with a trophy, her father takes a sudden interest in her new-found talent.

Saul is not only enthralled with his daughter's ability but reads a larger meaning into it. As Eliza continues to

win contests, she becomes the new focus of her father's life, as he now neglects both his wife and son. Frustrated in his own attempts to reach a higher level of religious transcendence, he now thinks she can achieve what has eluded him. As he takes on her training for the next spelling bee, he also introduces her to kabbalah despite her young age. Ignoring his son and wife and with all his attention focused on his daughter and her elevation as his chosen one, the family starts a disintegration.

Saul's focus on Eliza, and his pursuit of his own goals and ambitions through her, leaves his son Aaron adrift, emotionally and spiritually, when he could most benefit from his father's guidance. Once his controlling father's favorite, Aaron does not begrudge his sister the new-found attention but he is clearly hurt by being shut out of the little circle the two of them now form. Saul's wife Miriam also begins a downward spiral, and Saul's preoccupation keeps him from understanding the significance of her erratic behavior. Aaron, meanwhile, casts about for direction and finds one in the form of a blonde-haired follower of Hari Krishna (Kate Bosworth). While young Eliza is thrilled at first with her father's sudden attention, she proves wise enough to see the effect it is having on her family.

As young Eliza, Flora Cross is wonderful, with her soulful eyes and solemn expression. When she competes in the spelling bees, she often closes her eyes and visualizes images that direct her to the spelling of the word. Filmmakers Scott McGehee and David Siegel use special effects, like floating letters rearranging themselves in a dance of words or an origami bird fluttering in to help her spell out the word origami, to suggest Eliza's inner world. Richard Gere delivers a fine performance as the obsessed father, oblivious to what is happening to his wife and son. Juliette Binoche, always good, is moving as the disintegrating Miriam, and almost captures an American accent for the part. Max Minghella captures perfectly Aaron's hurt at his father's neglect, and conveys his uncertainty in a completely believable way, as Aaron is forced to struggle on his own with his evolving issues of identity.

While a film that addresses mysticism may seem surprisingly deep for Hollywood, at heart "Bee Season" is a family drama. The directors have raised usual topics before in their films, including the taut thriller "The Deep End," another film that took risks with the subject matter while still delivering a solid piece of engrossing filmmaking. The topic may be esoteric but the style of filmmaking is accessible. The film skillfully draws us into both the world of mysticism and the inner workings of this family. They unravel their tale, leaving us guessing at times about where they will go next, avoiding the obvious and predictable.

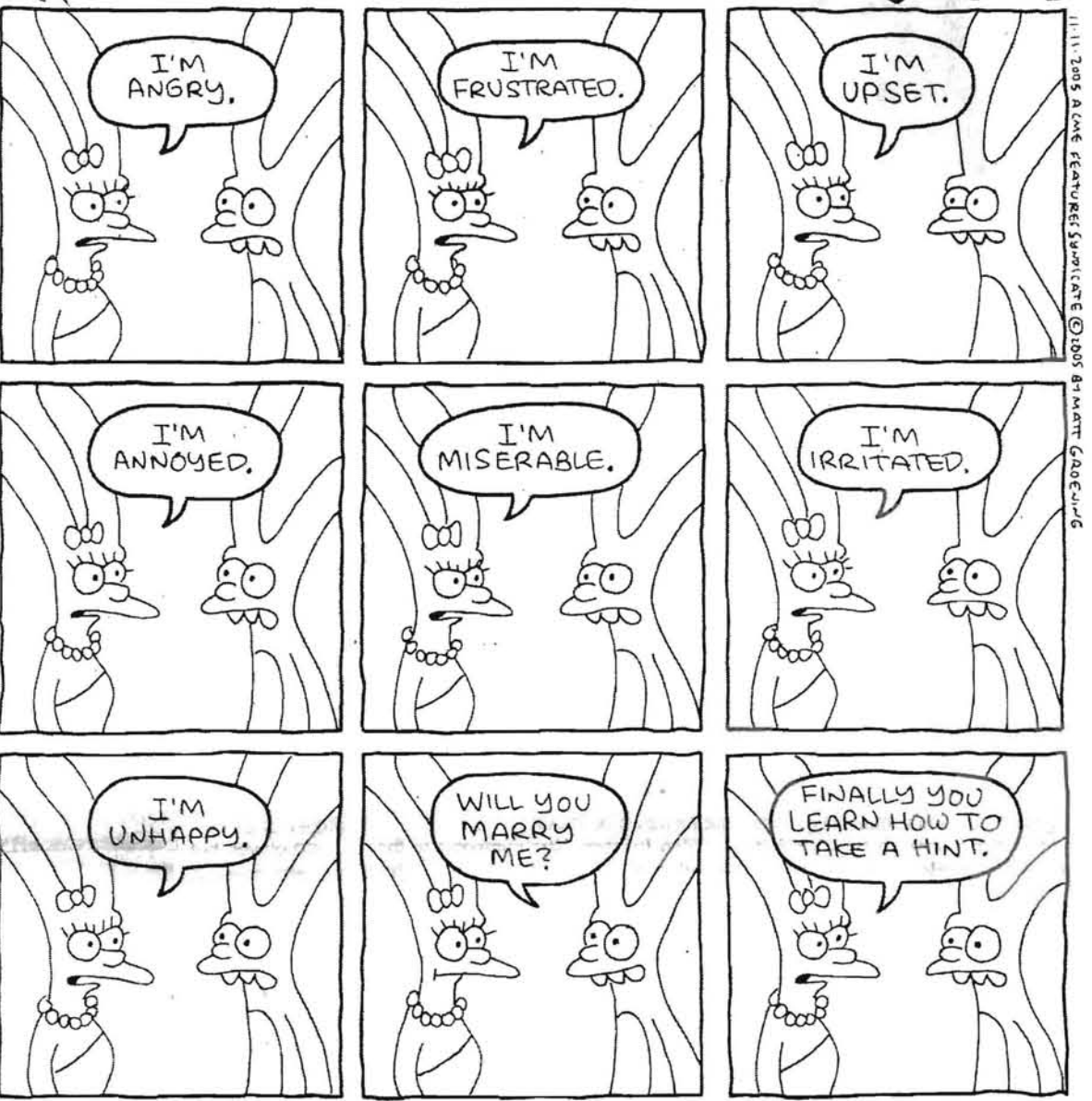
Not everything in this ambitious film works. There are times when the symbolism becomes too studied and the film often risks taking itself too seriously. Since the film also approaches its spiritual subject in an unquestioning way, some skeptical audience members might find parts of it hard to accept. While Gere turns in a fine performance, some might have a hard time seeing one of the world's best known Buddhists as a Jewish scholar obsessed with mysticism and kabbalah.

Mostly, directors Seigel and McGehee, aided by their talented cast, deliver a heart-felt film that is far more universal than one might expect. It strives to tap into mankind's search for contact with the divine without losing the audience in esoteric detail, by approaching it from an emotional level and putting it in the context of a family. In many ways, they succeed but where they fall a bit short, the cast and directors still deserve credit for the effort to create a film about ideas, as well as about feelings and family. "Bee Season" opens at theaters in St. Louis on Nov. 18.

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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your ruling planet, Mars, allows you to assume a sense of command that can help you turn a chaotic workplace situation into one that's orderly, productive and, yes, even friendly.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Getting a relationship that's been stuck in a rut up and running again depends on how far you want to run with it. Be honest with yourself as you consider which decision to make.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be wary of rumors that seem to be coming from everywhere this week. Waiting for the facts before you act means never having to say you're sorry you followed the wrong lead.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A difficult personal matter might prompt you to turn to a trusted friend to help you sort through a maze of emotional conflicts. The weekend should bring some welcome news.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Some of the new people coming into the Lion's life could play pivotal roles in future personal and professional matters. Meanwhile, an old friend might have an important message.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A delay in getting things moving on schedule can be a blessing in disguise. Use this extra time to do more research so you can buttress any of the weaker points with solid facts.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might need to get involved in a personal matter before it becomes a serious problem. Also be wary of someone offering to mediate unless you can be sure of his or her motives.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Taking sides in a workplace or domestic dispute could prolong the problem. Stay out and stay cool. Then you can be friends with both parties when things settle down.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A friendship has the potential to become something more, and with this week's aspects favoring romance, you might feel that this possibility is worth exploring.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The new job you want might require you to relocate. If so, keep an open mind and weigh all the positives and negatives before making your decision.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A new relationship seems to be everything you could have hoped for. Congratulations. Meanwhile, it's not too early to get some feedback on that new project you're working on.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You might have decided to get out of the fast-moving current and just float around hither and yon for a while. But you might find that the new opportunity is too tempting to turn down.

BORN THIS WEEK: You believe in bringing out the best in people with kind deeds, loving words and recognition of their "special" selves.

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Super Crossword RIGHT ON PEW

ACROSS: 1 Gurd, 6 Outfielder Tony, 11 Bother, 14 Cen. segments, 17 Regret, 19 Bother, 21 Lennon's widow, 22 Velvet finish, 23 Start of a remark, 27 Cozy room, 28 — Canals, 29 "Heavens to Betsy!", 30 Cowboy star Lash, 31 Spotted rodent, 33 Deteriorate, 36 More like a peacock, 37 Lancelot's son, 40 Fruity beverage, 41 Newsstand, 43 Castle or Dunne, 44 Part 2 of remark, 50 Rock band's stint, 51 Composer Gustav, 55 Russell of "A Beautiful Mind", 56 Cohen or Wallach, 57 Balloon material?, 59 "New Look" designer, 60 — cog (blunder), 61 Swash-buckling novelist, 63 Man, for one, 64 GI's address, 65 Exactly, 68 Kevin of "21", 68 Service member?, 70 Admin-istered anesthesia, 74 Pangolin's morsel, 75 Cavern, 78 White House spokesman, 79 — Doll, 81 "64 hit", 81 Newsstand, 85 Still's partner, 88 Carl of "Cosmos", 88 Cruise, 89 "The Egg" (47 film), 90 Symbol of sturdiness, 91 Tiny insectivore, 92 Cut and dried, 94 Dell delicacy, 95 Part 3 of remark, 99 Game name, 101 Kidney-related, 102 Corn portion, 103 Ridiculous star, 108 Bloom or Danes, 108 Hut, 111 Oxidize, 112 Boring tool, 113 Zest, 114 38 Down's symbol, 115 Author Umberto, 118 End of remark, 125 Compass pt., 126 Subway unit, 127 Disturbed the peace?, 128 Singer Dion, 129 Shorten a slat, 130 Conceal wear, 131 African antelope, 132 Improve, 133 Down, 1 Runners carry it, 2 Breaker, 3 Sherman, 36 Mil. unit, 37 Tenor Beniamino, 38 Zodiac sign, 39 Sanctioned, 42 Dubuque denizen, 46 Renown, 46 Overused, 47 San —, Italy, 48 Tribe, 49 — ribs, 52 Roll with the punches, 53 With it, 54 "Gigi" author, 58 Furnishings plant, 60 "Don Giovanni" setting, 61 Rowan or Raiter, 62 Marine leader?, 67 Bald bird, 69 Actress Hagen, 71 — beaver, 72 Texas talk, 73 Carl, 75 Equipment, 76 Autumn implement, 77 Actor Milo, 80 Distress, 82 Zhou —, 83 Doll up, 84 Elf, 85 Janitor's item, 87 Salt-water lake, 88 It may be tall, 91 "Auki Lang", 92 ERI exclamation, 93 Emcee's site, 96 Took a shot at, 97 O'Hara's "From the —", 98 Inch, 100 Big bang letters, 103 — League, 104 Poisonous plant, 105 Java joints, 106 Verdi's "Miller", 107 Ford's predecessor, 109 "Off to Lam", 110 Skirt shape, 111 CIPHER, 114 Funnyman Foxx, 115 Perry's victory site, 116 Neighbor of Mass., 117 Bad bills, 119 Droop, 120 Cambodia's Lon —, 121 La-la lead-in, 122 Coop critter, 123 Wicketing mark, 124 Alphabet sequence.

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AFGHANISTAN. *from page 6*

She ended her speech by telling the young students in the audience that parents, teachers and counselors can help them attain their goals, but she reminded them, "they're your goals."

"(Most) of the people say they've heard things (in the lecture) they've never heard before on TV or in newspapers. They are learning new things and thinking about it," he said. "I'm not telling people what they should think or feel about the war."

VETERANS DAY, *from page 6*

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs website,

"I think that the artist is trying to demonstrate that there is hope for his country and to show not

www.va.gov, Nov. 11 is the anniversary of World War I, which ended in 1919. That year, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 Armistice Day, which was the anniversary of the armistice between the Allied nations and

"Return to Afghanistan" will be on display at Gallery 210 until Dec. 10 and is located in Gallery B.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation changing the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

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University Center got a 24 cent increase in funding. There had not been an increase in the University Center fee since 2002, so for inflation and rising utility costs, the extra money was necessary.

Hess reiterated that all debit cards would still be used at the counter of the Cashier's Office and that all money saved by the change would be used for scholarships and student services.



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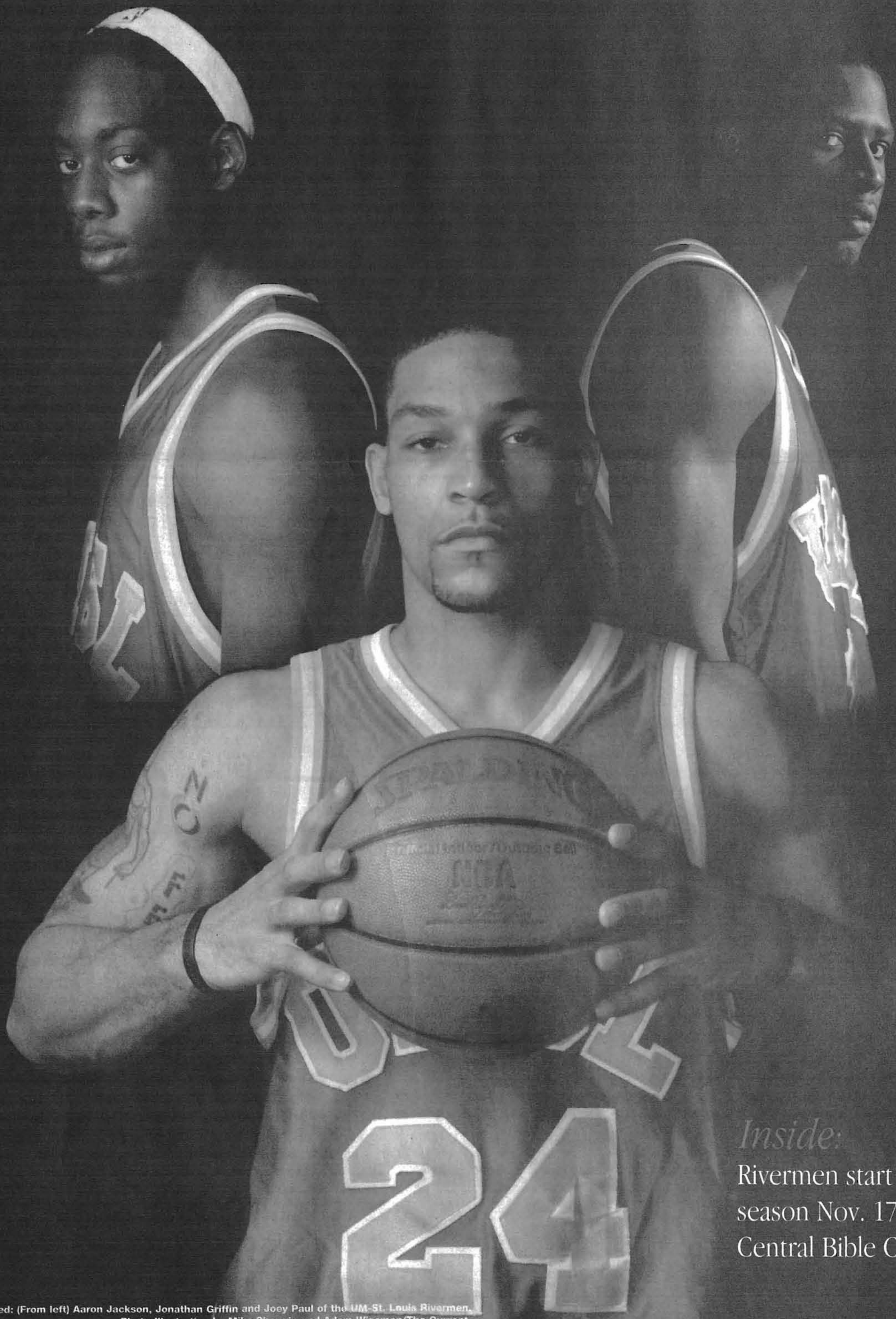


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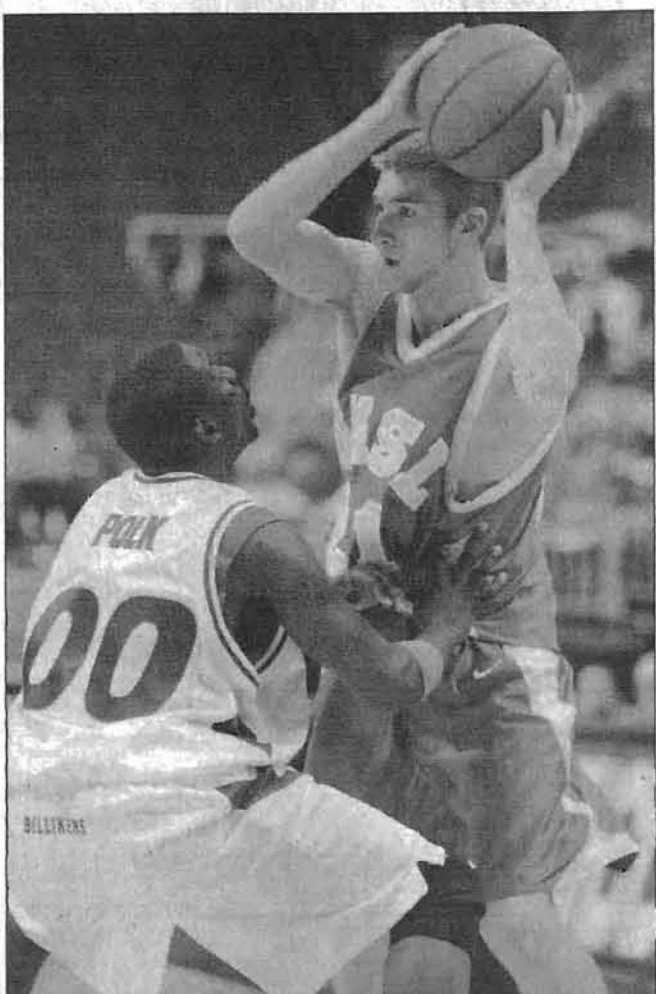
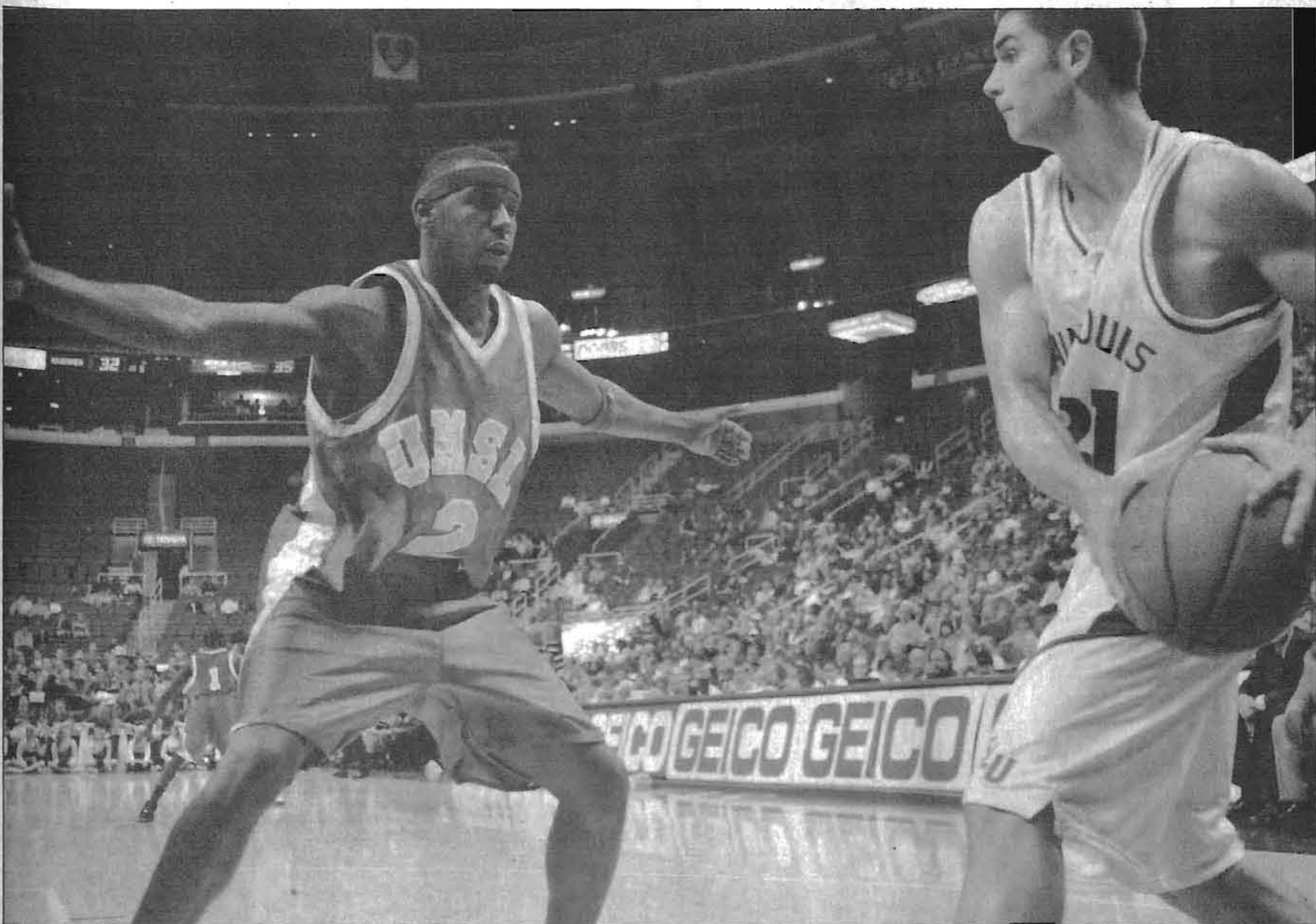
Game on

UM-St. Louis Basketball
2005-2006 Season Preview



Inside:
Rivermen start the
season Nov. 17 vs.
Central Bible College

Pictured: (From left) Aaron Jackson, Jonathan Griffin and Joey Paul of the UM-St. Louis Rivermen.
Photo-Illustration by Mike Sherwin and Adam Wiseman/The Current.



LEFT: Aaron Green, senior, forward, guards against SLU's Kevin Lisch during the exhibition game Wednesday night at Savvis Center. The Rivermen lost to Division I SLU 102-67.
ABOVE: Freshman guard Nathan Whittaker fights through the SLU defense Wednesday night at Savvis.

Men's basketball is anxious for season tipoff Nov. 17

After exhibition game loss at SLU, UMSL to start regular Div. II season

BY ROBBIE STONE
Staff Writer

Even with a preseason 102-67 loss to Division I powerhouse St. Louis University, the UM-St. Louis men's basketball team is more than ready to get the ball rolling into the regular season. The Rivermen's basketball season tips off at 7:30 p.m. this Thursday at the Mark Twain Center against Central Bible College.

Last season, the Rivermen had a slow start but really kicked things into gear the second part of the season.

"We played as well as any team in the conference the second part of the season," said Head Coach Chris Pilz. "We would like to keep that momentum going. We had a huge double overtime win at home against Lewis where everyone rushed the floor at the end of the game. It was incredible. The win on the road at Bellarmine also sticks out as a huge spark for the team; it was the

game that put us into the conference tournament," Pilz said.

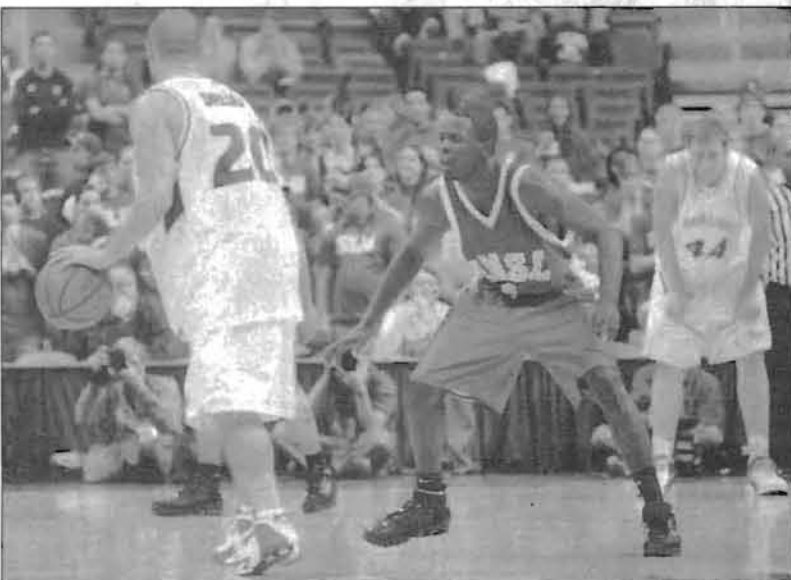
Southern Indiana, one of the best team in Division II basketball, knocked UM-St. Louis out of the conference tournament last season.

The team welcomes several returning players who played important roles in the 2004-2005 season, including six seniors. Senior guards Jonathan Griffin and Sherome Cole, and senior forwards Joey Paul and Aaron Green are among those who Coach Pilz expects dynamic play from.

Griffin, who earned second team all conference honors last season, is the team's undisputed leader.

"Jonathan excels on the basketball court and in the classroom," Pilz said. "Jonathan was a redshirt freshman and this is his fifth year with the team. He leads by example and demands respect from all his teammates."

The team is also expecting great things from the new players this season. Junior guard Troy Slaten will be



Senior forward Joey Paul defends against a SLU player on Wednesday night at Savvis Center during an exhibition match. The Rivermen play their first regular season game on Thursday Nov. 17 at the Mark Twain Building on campus.

seeing his first action on the hardwood after he was forced to sit out the entire 2004-2005 season due to an injury. Also new to the roster is 6-6 big man Paul De Chellis from Melbourne,

Australia and sophomore guard Aaron Jackson, a product of Hazelwood Central High School, Pilz's former coaching ground.

During the offseason the players

worked diligently to improve their individual offensive skills. "I really wanted the players to improve their shooting and ball handling skills," Pilz said.

In addition to training offensively, several players trained with the team's weight coach during the off-season.

"I'm very impressed with what I've seen from the team. Many players came into this season having added 10-15 pounds of muscle," Pilz said.

Once official practices began, the focus was bringing everything together, with an emphasis on team defense.

"The team's chemistry is right at where it should be going into the new season," Griffin said. "Everyone supports one another and we all give it everything we've got. A lot of the credit goes to Coach Pilz," he added. "He is always pushing us to hustle, chase loose balls, and play a tough team defense."

Griffin said the team's goals this season are to finish in the upper half of the GLVC and to compete in the NCAA tournament.

As always, the road to the conference tournament will not be an easy one, especially playing in a premier conference like the Great Lakes Valley

WHAT:
Men's Basketball Home Opener

WHEN:
Thursday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE:
UMSL's Mark Twain Building

HOW MUCH:
Free for UMSL students

Conference.

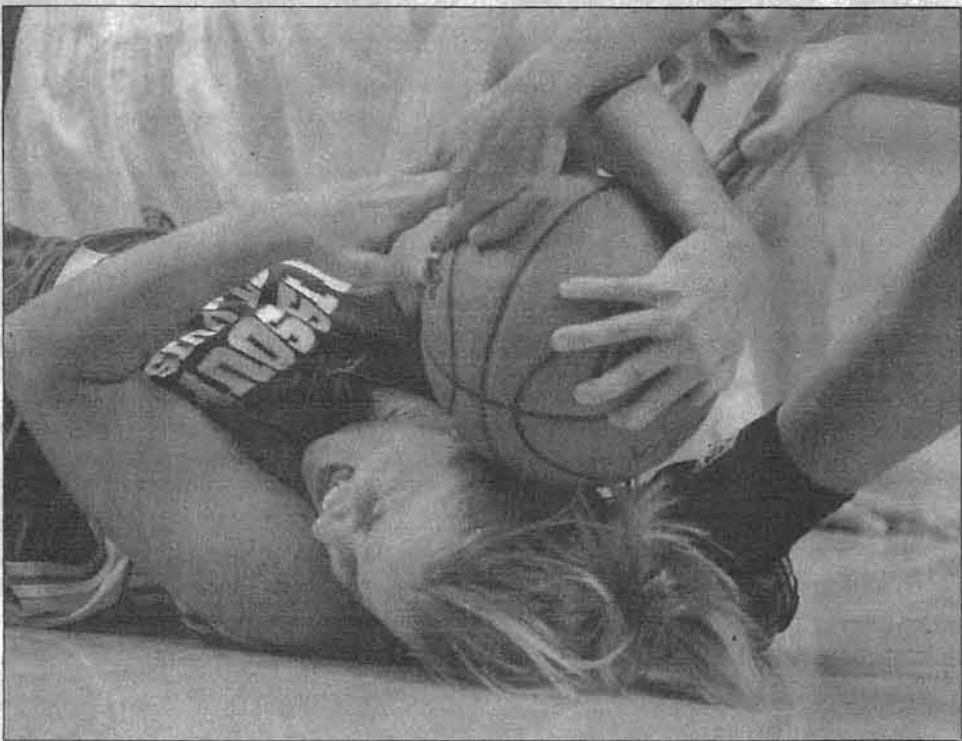
"The GLVC is the Cadillac of Division II basketball," Pilz said. "It's the Division II's version of the ACC. Teams like Southern Indiana and Kentucky Wesleyan are always nationally recognized. Each year, five or six teams from our conference compete in the NCAA tournament."

Pilz said the team has eight straight home games to begin the season and would love for students, faculty and basketball fans to come create a home-court advantage for the UM-St. Louis hardworking student-athletes.

UM-St. Louis 2005-06 Men's Basketball Schedule			
Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Nov. 17	Central Bible College	St. Louis, Mo.	7:30 pm
Nov. 22	MISSOURI SOUTHERN	St. Louis, Mo.	7:00 pm
Nov. 25	BRESCIA	St. Louis, Mo.	6:00 pm
Nov. 26	ARKANSAS TECH	St. Louis, Mo.	5:00 pm
Dec. 1	KENTUCKY WESLEYAN *	St. Louis, Mo.	7:30 pm
Dec. 3	SOUTHERN INDIANA *	St. Louis, Mo.	3:00 pm
Dec. 10	MISSOURI-ROLLA *	St. Louis, Mo.	3:00 pm
Dec. 17	BLACKBURN	St. Louis, Mo.	7:00 pm
Dec. 20	at Harris Stowe	St. Louis, Mo.	7:00 pm
Dec. 28	at Arkansas Tech	Russellville, Ark.	7:00 pm
Jan. 5	at Lewis *	Romeoville, Ill.	7:30 pm
Jan. 7	at Wisconsin-Parkside *	Kenosha, Wis.	3:00 pm
Jan. 12	NORTHERN KENTUCKY *	St. Louis, Mo.	7:30 pm
Jan. 14	BELLARMINE *	St. Louis, Mo.	3:00 pm
Jan. 19	at SIU Edwardsville *	Edwardsville, Ill.	7:30 pm
Jan. 21	at Quincy *	Quincy, Ill.	7:30 pm
Jan. 23	ROBERT MORRIS (Ill.)	St. Louis, Mo.	7:30 pm
Jan. 26	ROCKHURST *	St. Louis, Mo.	7:30 pm
Jan. 28	DRURY *	St. Louis, Mo.	3:00 pm
Feb. 2	at Saint Joseph's *	Rensselaer, Ind.	7:30 pm
Feb. 4	at Indianapolis *	Indianapolis, Ind.	3:30 pm
Feb. 9	SIU EDWARDSVILLE *	St. Louis, Mo.	7:30 pm
Feb. 11	QUINCY *	St. Louis, Mo.	7:30 pm
Feb. 16	at Rockhurst *	Kansas City, Mo.	7:30 pm
Feb. 18	at Drury *	Springfield, Mo.	3:00 pm
Feb. 21	at Missouri-Rolla *	Rolla, Mo.	7:30 pm
Feb. 25	at Southern Indiana *	Evansville, Ind.	3:15 pm
Mar. 2-5	at GLVC Tournament	Evansville, Ind.	TBA
* - denotes GLVC Match			

UM-St. Louis 2005-06 Women's Basketball Schedule			
Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Nov. 17	SAGINAW VALLEY STATE	St. Louis, Mo.	5:30 pm
Nov. 18	vs Lincoln Christian	St. Louis, Mo.	2:00 pm
Nov. 19	vs St. Louis Pharmacy/Maryville	St. Louis, Mo.	11:00/5:00
Nov. 23	at McKendree	Lebanon, Ill.	7:00 pm
Dec. 1	KENTUCKY WESLEYAN *	St. Louis, Mo.	5:30 pm
Dec. 3	SOUTHERN INDIANA *	St. Louis, Mo.	1:00 pm
Dec. 6	at Oakland City	Oakland City, Ind.	6:00 pm
Dec. 10	MISSOURI-ROLLA *	St. Louis, Mo.	1:00 pm
Dec. 20	at Harris Stowe	St. Louis, Mo.	5:00 pm
Dec. 30	PITTSBURG STATE	St. Louis, Mo.	7:00 pm
Jan. 5	at Lewis *	Romeoville, Ill.	5:30 pm
Jan. 7	at Wisconsin-Parkside *	Kenosha, Wis.	1:00 pm
Jan. 12	NORTHERN KENTUCKY *	St. Louis, Mo.	5:30 pm
Jan. 14	BELLARMINE *	St. Louis, Mo.	1:00 pm
Jan. 19	at SIU Edwardsville *	Edwardsville, Ill.	5:30 pm
Jan. 21	at Quincy *	Quincy, Ill.	5:15 pm
Jan. 23	OAKLAND CITY	St. Louis, Mo.	5:30 pm
Jan. 26	ROCKHURST *	St. Louis, Mo.	5:30 pm
Jan. 28	DRURY *	St. Louis, Mo.	1:00 pm
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Feb. 25	at Southern Indiana *	Evansville, Ind.	1:00 pm
Mar. 2-5	at GLVC Tournament	Evansville, Ind.	TBA
* - denotes GLVC Match			

RIGHT: Sophomore guard Leslie Ricker tries to wrest the ball from a Saint Louis University player on Wednesday night during an exhibition match at Savvis Center. The NCAA Division II Riverwomen beat the Division I Billikens 66-60.



FAR RIGHT: Junior center Jennifer Martin goes up for a shot Wednesday night at Savvis.

Photos by Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Riverwomen bring more experience, energy to '05-'06

BY ROBBIE STONE
Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team burst into the regular season with a huge morale boost, defeating NCAA Division I St. Louis University 66-60 at the Savvis Center on Nov. 9. The Riverwomen spread the ball around well as nine different players contributed at least four points in the contest.

The Riverwomen will officially kick off the regular season at the Mark Twain Center on Nov. 17 at 5:30 p.m. against Saginaw Valley State, prior to the men's game.

The Riverwomen are coming off a frustrating 2004-2005 campaign, where the team was young and inexperienced. Head Coach Lee Buchanan said, "It was a tough year for us. We only had 11 players on our roster and out of those 11, six were freshmen."

"I can tell the team is much more optimistic and excited this year than last. A lot of the younger players have a year's experience under their belt and you can tell they are more confident. Everyone is more excited," said

guard Nikki Jerome.

Players returning from last year's squad expecting to see significant playing time include senior guards Crystal Lambert and Nikki Jerome, sophomore point guard Courtney Watts, sophomore forward Leslie Ricker and junior forward Megan Alberts. Players will have to step up offensively as the team will be without their leading scorer and rebounder from a year ago, Kali Birkey.

The offensive gap will be filled with a new addition to the team, junior 6'2" center Jennifer Martin. Martin is a transfer student who played Division I basketball for two seasons at Campbell University in North Carolina. The Riverwomen are looking for high offensive and rebounding production from her.

The Riverwomen are turning to returning seniors Jerome and Lambert to take on the role of team leaders and guide their young talent in the right direction.

"Crystal and Nikki are very important to the team on and off the court," Buchanan said.

"The team is really meshing well

right now," Buchanan said. "Everyone is keeping a good attitude and the ladies have a lot of character. They are excited to get the season going."

During the offseason, the team focused on agility drills and footwork to maximize their great team speed. Buchanan drilled the team with fundamentals and conditioning in the off-season and once official practices begun, the team started putting all the pieces together.

"Our ultimate goal this season is to make it to the conference tournament," Jerome said.

Buchanan said that after last season, it would be a remarkable accomplishment for the team to bounce back and compete in the conference tournament.

"It would mean a lot to us to see big crowds in the stands at our home games this year," Jerome said. "We're an exciting team to watch. We play a very fast paced exciting brand of basketball. We always give 100 percent each time we step onto the court. We have it all! You won't be disappointed!"



After surgery, Lambert hopes to get back on the court

BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

Doctors warned her going into the surgery that she might not ever be able to play basketball again. Her parents told her that it was not a good idea to continue her dream. Her team watched her faint numerous times during practice but today she will, once again, fulfill her dream.

Crystal Lambert has been plagued with heart problems since she was 13 years old. Her doctors could never figure out exactly what was causing Lambert to constantly feel dizzy and faint. The doctors claimed that her brain told her heart to slow down but her heart did not know how or when. At any given time, her heart would pick up pace and Lambert could control it by concentrating on controlling her breathing.

For nine years, Lambert went her life without having a proper diagnosis. She had been playing basketball since she was five and it was just part of her life. When her first spell came about, she had no other choice but to play with her disability. She never let what was happening in her body affect the goals she was trying to reach.

After nine years of being on the same medicines, in May 2005, Lambert's doctor took her off the medicines. She did not realize how severe her situation was. From May to October, Lambert's situation worsened. She passed out more often and suffered from seizure-like symptoms. She shook violently and became unconscious, as a reaction to her brain not getting enough blood.

Lambert said that her father and mother did not want her to play because her life was more important than a basketball game.

"They still supported me because I wanted to play," said Lambert.

On Oct. 5, Lambert's pain controlled her body and she no longer could bear the pain. She was running sprints in preseason training when she fainted. Her coach, Lee Buchanan, said that the team had seen Lambert faint but this instance was different. The athletic trainer was called in and 911 was called.



File photo: Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Crystal Lambert keeps her eye on a Bellarmine opponent during a game last January. Lambert underwent heart surgery on Nov. 1 but she is hoping to get back on the court as soon as possible.

Lambert was in the hospital for around 30 hours. Still, the doctors could not determine the problem. She was told that she had extra activity around her heart and had a tunneled vessel that, if disrupted, could kill her.

From Oct. 6 to Nov. 1, the day of her surgery, Lambert wore a heart monitor on the outer part of her body. She had a monitor on her left

side under her ribs and one on the right side of her chest. The monitor would alert the hospital if problems occurred in Lambert's body.

Going into the surgery, Lambert's doctors warned her of the side effects. The main one was that she might not ever play basketball again. They also told her that she could suffer from blood clots from her legs up and she might

have to be put on medicine to thin her blood that would ultimately cause her to become anemic.

The surgery lasted seven hours and the surgeons found that Lambert had an extra electro circuit that was not pumping blood to the bottom of her heart, only the top. The surgeons froze the extra one and then scraped it off. Luckily for Lambert and her family, the surgery was 100 percent effective.

Lambert said it was a true wake up call when the doctors said she might not play again. She learned to not take for granted the little things like waking up and seeing another day and just being able to breathe.

Starting today, Lambert will be able to practice without any restrictions with her team, instead of helping coach from the sidelines. Her doctors said that if problems do come about, they will put a microchip in her chest to see exactly what is going on at all times.

"I thank God for having a praying family that was there for me through every struggle," Lambert said. "I can't forget my teammates who were by my side when all my episodes occurred."

Coach Buchanan said that Lambert has been on the court since he stepped foot on campus. He said it has been difficult watching her on the sidelines instead of on the court because he knows she wants to be playing more than anything.

Lambert started 18 games last season and played in all 27. She said she does not know her full status for the home opener on Nov. 17 but she and her coach think that she will be playing in some portion of the game.

Coach Buchanan said that the team has been concerned with Lambert's health and is looking forward to seeing her practice.

"The team will get a lot better when Crystal steps on the court," Buchanan said.

Lambert has never been caught up in being able to play. She said she just took it day by day and reminded herself of her favorite scripture from Proverbs.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And lean not on your own understanding; In all ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path."

Staff Viewpoint

Crystal Lambert's inspiring story reminds us 'life's a dance'

There are times in my life that really make me think about the true meaning of life. I try not to give it much thought because the question, in itself, is a very difficult one that would require much research and time that I do not have. I have, however, adopted the lines of an old country song as my theme and answer. "Life's a dance, you learn as you go, sometimes you lead and sometimes you follow. Don't worry about what you don't know, life's a dance, you learn as you go."

I too often take everything that I have for granted. I have been very fortunate in my life. I have a loving family that would give their lives for me. I have a nice car, nice furniture, nice clothes. I do not have any health problems except that sometimes my feet hurt and my back needs to be popped. Other than those, I am healthy.

Last week, I attended the basketball tip-off luncheon. I listened to Head Coach Lee Buchanan as he introduced his players. I try to watch people's reactions as I think of myself as a good judge of character. A person can really learn a lot from observing the way people carry themselves.

Coach introduced Crystal



BY LINDSEY BARRINGER
Sports Editor

Lambert. I watched as her small grin turned into a smile as she limped to the front of the room. I, immediately, was intrigued. Her coach explained that she was just released from the hospital. Not too many details were given but the coach said she would be able to play again.

I was able to talk to Crystal and she, without a second thought, volunteered her story to me. I was inspired. I felt honored that she shared her story with me so I could share it with as many people as possible. She truly is a miracle.

I can guarantee that there are many people just like Crystal that have not been as lucky. I had a friend when I was in high school that collapsed and died on his high school basketball court. Not all cases are severe as his but my point is that we can not take life for granted.

Crystal serves as an inspiration to me and I have spoken to her less than an hour. Her story compelled me and reminded me that we are not in control of our life. Her wake up call was when her doctors said she might not play basketball again. In that sense, it should serve as one to all of us. Take life day by day; don't sweat the small stuff; forgive and forget and let life be a dance.

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Aiming high

Riverwomen hope to rebound from last season's 6-21 record



Inside:

Last year Crystal Lambert was a key player. This year she's fighting medical problems to get back on the court

Pictured: (From left) Leslie Ricker, Taylor Gagliano and Amanda Miller will help lead the Riverwomen this season. Photo by Mike Sherwin and Adam Wiseman/The Current.

night *life*

November 14, 2005

**'Of A Revolution' rocks out
at the Fabulous Fox**

See page 6

Chill out in the
Central West End at
trendy locales

See page 2





Adam D. Wiseman/The Current

Frequent patron, Bob Gamache (right) hangs out with friends at the Loading Zone on Saturday.

BY LAURA MCCARTHY

Staff Writer

The Central West End has long been a popular nighttime destination for college students, singles, the gay community and everyone in between. And with such a variety of clubs and bars, it is easy to see why. The CWE has everything: an exotic corner café serving \$2 martinis, a traditional sports bar and grill, a gay bar/club and a swanky nightclub serving over 185 different types of vodka from all over the world.

Here is your guide for every possible flavor you could be looking for when venturing out to the Central West End with your buds.

Start your evening off at **Mense City Market and Café**, 725 Union Blvd., at the corner of Union and Pershing, just off the northeast corner of Forest Park (MetroLink anyone?), and in the West End City Apartments' Congress Building.

Two-dollar cosmos, and apple and chocolate martinis daily means you may find it hard to leave. Besides the martinis, which recently earned the café the title "Best Place for a Midday Drink" by the Riverfront Times on Sept. 29, you can also get \$2 glasses of wine (or purchase by the bottle), beer, juice, soda, tea and of course, coffee, which comes from local CWE distributor Northwest Coffee, and can be bought by the cup or in bulk.

Add six hot wings to your martini or beer and pay only \$5.50 on Friday and Saturday evenings. In a hurry with no time to coquettishly sip your martini? Just ask for a to-go cup and enjoy when you reach your destination.

They also feature gourmet meals weeknights that the regulars have come to depend on. "I have no food in my fridge because I eat here all the time," said Chris Coffey, a loyal customer.

Mense has brought the outdoor patio inside, with mosaic tables and chairs from a local distributor, textured stone tiling, and an assortment of plants—plus a real outdoor seating area. And "Guapa," the café's owner, is happy to serve you inside or out.

Additional info: Mense is open Monday through Saturday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily.

Look for this week's specials: Monday New York Strip Steak and fried potato salad, Tuesday Shrimp Rockefeller and sautéed spinach, Wednesday gourmet pizza any way you want it, and Thursday Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo and Broccoli. \$8-10 a plate.

Get back on the MetroLink for just a few blocks to the Euclid stop and hit **Tom's Bar and Grill**, at 20 S. Euclid Avenue.

The perfect setting for friends looking to kick back with a pitcher of beer (or two) and a list of songs for karaoke, Tom's has been open since 1976 and has become an established tradition for many St. Louis alumni, including the bar's second proprietor, Dave Wessel, a '73 UM-St. Louis alumnus.

The crowd at Tom's is diverse, ranging from white-collar business men, hospital workers and construction workers during the day, to college students, retirees, university alumni, and gays and lesbians at night and on the weekends.

Tom's is famous for hot wings and burgers, but I personally recommend the Tenderloin Tips from their appetizers.

Tom Dimitriades, the original proprietor, sought woodwork and relics from all over the city when designing his bar, featuring unique moldings, doors, and other fixtures which have come to compliment the vaulted wood ceilings, fire place and original artwork hanging on the walls today. The front swinging doors originate from an old South St. Louis church. But there is no need to genuflect upon entering Tom's.

Wessel says he is protective of his bar and his customers. "I want people to be comfortable," he said. He wants all customers to feel safe, welcome, and free to enjoy themselves.

Additional info: Open until 1:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday, midnight on Sunday. Open Friday and Saturday for karaoke, and Sunday for every football game on television. Check out its website: www.tomsbarandgrill.com for more info, pics and coupons.

Right next door to Tom's Bar and Grill is the **Loading Zone**, at 16 S. Euclid Avenue, St. Louis's premier gay bar.

Not gay? Not a problem. This hotspot hosts anyone looking for a spicy evening—regulars and

newbies alike.

Proprietor Mark Erney (the "hotspot") said, "We are one of the only gay bars [in St. Louis] with such a diverse mix in our clientele. All walks of life are welcome here—and all walks lead to the Zone!"

Erney also joked that his place is a traditional "testing ground" for women to bring their boyfriends.

Recently named the best gay bar in St. Louis by the RFT, the Loading Zone features the main bar to mix and mingle, a cozy lounge to the left with the best "ocean view" in the neighborhood, a lofted martini bar for overflow crowds, a pool table in the basement, and TVs all around for the hottest music videos (Saturday night's "You call it, we show it" request night) and the Sunday Sports Zone/Beer Bust.

Featuring a different theme every night of the week, the most popular is Tuesday, for "Show Tunes Tuesday." Wednesday's "80's Night" has also built a large following. The bartenders are among the friendliest and most welcoming in the business, and, by the way, make awesome martinis. Bartender Mikey Kueker said his favorite night, if he had to choose, is Monday night's "50% Industry Party."

"Other people in the industry come in for an oasis, to get away and have a good time," Kueker said. All are still welcome, however, on industry night. "I love our customers—girls, boys, everyone ... It doesn't seem like work," he said.

Additional info: Open daily until 1:30 a.m. Look for the New Year's Eve bash!

Step into **Sub Zero**—306 N. Euclid, a few blocks north of Tom's and the Loading Zone—the icy, big-city nightclub right here in St. Louis, serving over 185 different types of vodka from all over the world (all stored at the ideal 0 degrees) for all of you connoisseurs out there, and sushi seven

nights a week. And, to keep those tasty martinis at the optimum temperature, you will find a handy strip of ice built right into the marble bar for your short martini glass.

While this club is a little pricier than what a typical college student might like to spend, bring your UM-St. Louis student ID for a deal on the infusion vodkas: usually Stolli or Smirnoff vodka with a mix of fruit and spices for a truly unique martini or bloody mary—named "Best Blood Mary" by the RFT, featuring the four-pepper and sun-dried tomato infusion vodka. These house specialties are very popular and perfect for penny-pinchers.

Otherwise, look to spend \$8 or \$9 dollars for a rather large, and potent martini, cocktail, or champagne cocktail. But these drinks are well worth the extra dough, especially the Oreo cookie or limeade martinis.

Derek Gamlin, the club's original proprietor of one and a half years, built his business from the ground up, seeking to provide St. Louis with a unique, upscale club experience.

Every night is a good night for Sub Zero, but be sure to catch Thursday night for live music, and Friday and Saturday for the biggest crowds and thumping beats.

Additional info: Watch out for this year's New Year's Eve bash. Gamlin says he wants to get the streets blocked off like this year's Halloween party. The "Taste of Central West End" is also one of the biggest events for the club and the CWE. Check out www.subzerovodkabar.com for pics and the menu.

Each place will provide a unique experience. It all depends on your mood: Are you feeling mellow, laid back, frisky, hungry, hip, social, single or maybe a little bit of everything? My suggestion is to take a few nights to explore each place to see for yourself.

UMSL
Night Life

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Editor: Mabel Suen

CONTACT US:

The Current
388 Millennium Student Center
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63121

Newsroom • (314) 516-5174

Advertising • (314) 516-5316

Business • (314) 516-5175

Fax • (314) 516-6811

Email • current@jinx.umsf.edu

www.thecurrentonline.com

St. Louis International Film Festival brings cream of the crop from around the world to local theaters

BY CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

Are you a really serious film fan? If so, this is your week.

From now until Sunday, Nov. 20, St. Louis is treated to great films from around the world during the annual St. Louis International Film Festival. The festival offers 10 days of nearly 100 films from 25 countries, including feature films, documentaries and short films. The festival is one of the official venues for Oscar-contender short films. It also offers a chance to see documentaries and excellent foreign films that otherwise never make it to area screens. In addition, the festival is an outlet for new filmmakers, and offers a prize for the best film by a new director, something that has put the festival on the map for budding filmmakers.

Besides the chance to get a glimpse inside cultures from around in the world through their films, the festival brings many filmmakers to town for question and answer sessions at the screenings. To top off all that, there are parties and special events, discussion panels and a chance to meet filmmakers face to face. The 10 day event is capped off in the evening, on Sunday, Nov. 20, when the winners of the festival awards are announced at the Closing Night Awards Party, Sunday, Nov. 20 at Blueberry Hill's Duck Room.

Most of the films are shown at the Tivoli Theatre and a few are at Webster University's Moore Auditorium. Keeping more of the films at one venue helps increase the event's festival atmosphere. Complete listings of the films and ticket information are available in the St. Louis

International Film Festival program, which is available at the Tivoli or through the Cinema St. Louis website at www.cinemastlouis.org. Cinema St. Louis is the organization that presents the film festival and several other film events throughout the year.

For many of these films, this will be the only chance to see them on a big screen. Other films get their St. Louis premiere at the festival before opening for a longer regular run. In either case, all films have gone through a rigorous selection process to bring you the very best in cinema. As often as possible, each film is scheduled for two screenings on different dates, to make it easier to see as many as possible.

A rare treat you should make an effort to see is at least one of the short film programs, which are truly exceptional and something you likely will not otherwise see.

Highlights of the festival on opening weekend included "The Matador," a dark comedy with a thriller's edge about a hitman having a career crisis. The film stars Pierce Brosnan, in a role that riffs off his James Bond days, and also stars Hope Davis and Greg Kinnear. If you missed this one at the festival, it will be coming back for a longer run.

Films in competition for the Emerging Filmmaker award are usually shown on the festival's second weekend but this year they were shown during the first one, Nov. 11-13.

On Monday, Nov. 14, there were showings of "Johanna," "Bombon-El Perro" and "Fuse," three films getting a lot of positive buzz at film festivals around the world. "Johanna" is a Hungarian film, a stylized retelling of Joan of Arc in a surreal operatic tale

in a grungy hospital. "Bombon-El Perro" is an Argentinean film about a good-natured, down-on-his-luck mechanic who is given an eye-catching show dog named Bombon. "Fuse" is a clever political drama from Bosnia. Other highlights are the locally-made documentary, "Stan Kann: The Happiest Man in the World." Another documentary shown that night is "American Goth," a look at the Goth world, post-Columbine.

The remarkable South African film "Tsotsi" (which means thug) leads the choices for features films on Tuesday, Nov. 15. Other highlights include two striking documentaries, the locally-made "HairKutt" about friends who try to get a buddy off heroin over one white-knuckled week in a remote cabin, and a lighter choice in "Art and Crimes of Ron English," a master of political pop art and anti-Madison Avenue advertising. "Shorts Program 3: Shorts From Down Under" will also be shown.

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, you may have to flip a coin to decide between Icelandic comedy "Niceland," which is getting positive responses from audiences, or the comic "How to Conquer America In One Night" about a newly arrived Haitian immigrant in Montreal. Later that evening, catch "A Tribute to Lois Weber and Alice Guy Blache," with author Alison McMahan, and learn about these amazing early women filmmakers.

"The Girl from Paris," "Iron Island" and "Tony Takitani" are among the films getting a lot of interest on the festival circuit that will be shown on Thursday, Nov. 17. Or there is the edgy "Breakfast on Pluto," directed by Neil Jordan and starring Cillian Murphy as an Irish

man who re-invents himself as a transvestite as he searches for the mother that abandoned him as an infant.

Friday, Nov. 18, brings "Sequins," a French tale about friendship between two lonely women, "Brick," an American film about a high schooler trying to uncover the facts behind his ex-girlfriend's death, and Thailand's "The Judgment," about a Buddhist monk who returns to his small village to care for his father and instead winds up taking care of a beautiful but mentally ill woman, based on an award winning novel. The night also features the documentary "Back to Bosnia" and "Shorts Program 4: Relationshorts."

"Transamerica" and the baseball-themed "Rounding First" are among the festival's high-profile films getting a St. Louis premiere on Saturday, Nov. 19. Other festival circuit winners and audience pleasers showing on Saturday are "Wonderful Night in Split," "Beautiful Boxer," "Cape of Good Hope" and "Zhoorek." "Shorts Programs 5: Punchline and 6: Short Stuff" are also shown.

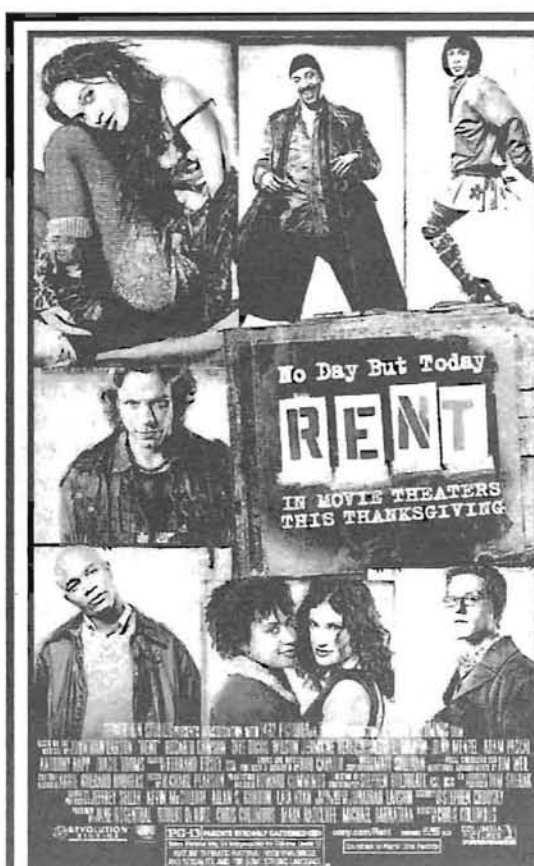
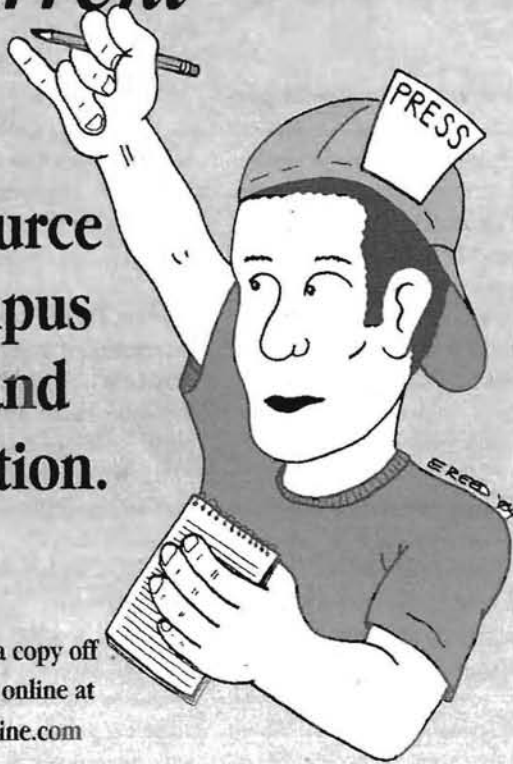
The last day of the festival, Sunday, Nov. 20, features a premiere for the delightful "Mrs. Henderson Presents," a fact-based WWII era tale starring Dame Judi Dench and Bob Hoskins. Another intriguing offering is "The White Countess," a historical film from the masters of the genre, Ismail Merchant and the late James Ivory, starring Ralph Fiennes and Natasha Richardson.

The hardest part is making up your mind on which of these great films you are going to see. How many movies can you see in 10 days?

The Current

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news and
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Every Monday, grab a copy off
the racks, or visit us online at
www.thecurrentonline.com



REVOLUTION
STUDIOS

COLUMBIA
PICTURES

Current

invite you to stop by The Current's table
on the Millennium Center bridge on
Tuesday, November 15th at 12:00 PM
to pick up a pass to see



Passes are available on a first-come,
first-served basis. No purchase necessary.
While supplies last. Employees of all
promotional partners and their agencies are not eligible.
One pass per person. This film is rated PG-13 for
mature thematic material involving drugs and sexuality,
and for some strong language.

IN MOVIE THEATRES NOVEMBER 23RD!

Under-21 crowd can spice up nights with minor-friendly fun

BY MABEL SUEN

Night Life Editor

We have all been there before. Walking around late at night – getting denied left and right. You are stuck staring into bars and casinos like a whining puppy begging to be noticed all because you are sadly, unfortunately, underage. Well, with this short guide, not being of legal maturity can become a minor detail when it comes to having a good time on any given night.

Okay, so first things first. You need to up the cash flow and score some dough before you can go anywhere.

1. Make some money by selling all your unwanted junk. Your trash can mean treasure in the form of dollar bills or store credit. Trade in those old hot pants of yours and take out a deposit at Plato's Closet (www.platoscloset.com), a men and women's clothing resale shop. Got unwanted CDs, movies, games or electronics? Try Slacker's CDs and Games (www.slacker-scdsandgames.com) or Electronics Exchange (314.426.4263). Still broke as a joke?

2. Be a tourist in your own town. St. Louis is home to an amazing array of cost-free attractions including The Art Museum (www.slam.org) and St. Louis Science Center (www.slsc.org) that both have later hours on Friday nights (9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. respectively). In addition, admission to special exhibits at the Art Museum is free on Fridays and Friday nights at the SLSC feature live music. See the Bottoms-Up Blues Gang on Nov. 18.

3. Check out your local community center. With a residential pass, you can get a good workout and enjoy yourself while doing so. Play racquetball or have a try at a rousing game of Wally ball. Take advantage of UM-St. Louis' weight room facilities in Mark Twain Building. If you're up for being active, there is variety of other options.

4. Get your line dance on at Wild Country (www.wildcountrynightclub.com), an 18 and up club in Collinsville, Ill. that is home to free dance lessons, karaoke, pool tournaments, "the famous thong-a-thong" and taping of St. Louis Country TV show, hosted

by 93.7 The Bull and aired on KMOV-TV. Admission is free on weekends if you come before 8 p.m., and free any day if you bring a same-day ticket stub from any concert or sporting event.

5. City Museum (www.citymuseum.org) is another place to stretch your legs. A playground for all ages, it is open until 1 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Too tired?

6. Get wired at one of St. Louis' many great late night coffeehouses such as Rivalz Technology Café. See pg. 12 to learn more. Craving more than coffee?

7. Stuff yourself silly at Cici's Pizza's (www.cicispizza.com), where you can feast for cheap at the all-you-can-eat buffet with several locations near the St. Louis area. Afterwards, you might want to walk it off.

8. Go bowlin' at Tropicana Lanes (www.tropicanalanes.com), down the street from the St. Louis Galleria. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. everyday, Tropicana has 52 lanes for bowling and an arcade room complete with pool tables, air hockey, and a Dance Dance Revolution machine. On Tuesday nights from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., you can get two hours of bowling, two pairs of shoes, one large pizza and one pitcher of soda all for \$22.95. On Wednesdays from 9 p.m. 'til close, you can pay a \$5 admission fee and get games, shoes, hot dogs and sodas for 50 cents each all night.

9. Shoot some pool at Cue and Cushion (www.cueandcushion.com) in North County. Open until 2 a.m. Sunday thru Thursday and until 3 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, C&C has billiards, 17 pool tables, arcade games, foosball and a jukebox that contains anything from Dire Straits to Jimi Hendrix. Students 22 and younger receive a discount if an I.D. is presented before play.

10. Play some putt-putt. Try Par-tee Miniature Golf and Batting Cages (8424 N. Lindbergh Blvd.) or have a go at glowing black light golf at The Putting Edge in St. Louis Mills Mall (www.stlouismills.com) for \$8.50 a game. Feel like just sitting back and enjoying your night?

11. Laugh a little (or a lot) at The Funny Bone comedy club (www.funny-boneusa.com) in Westport. See professional comedians on Wednesday and Thursday

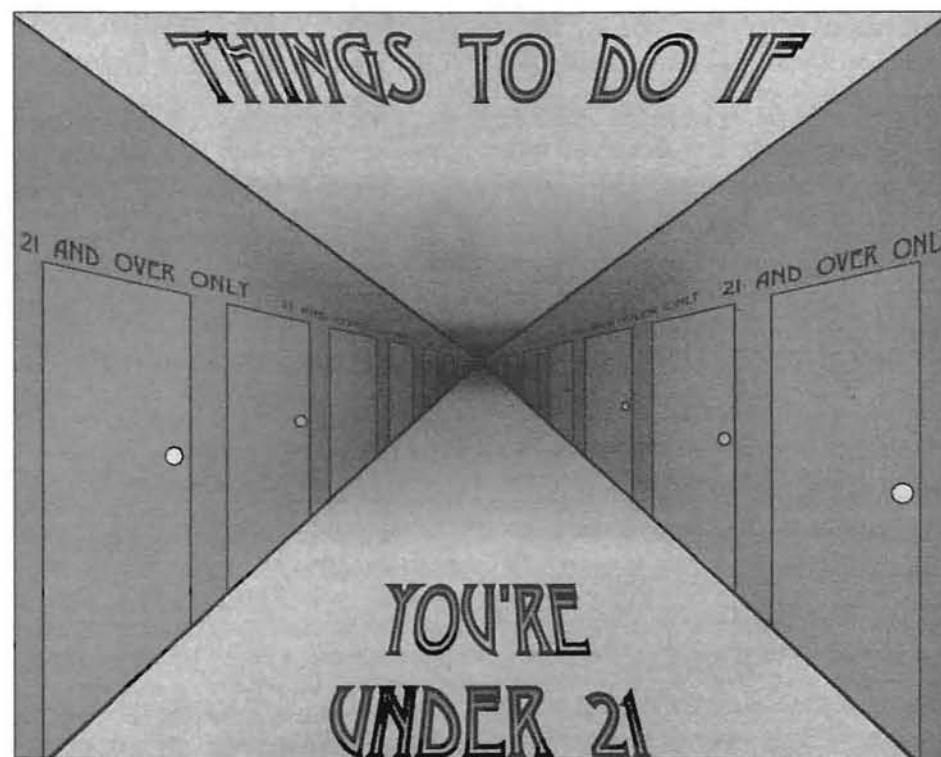


Illustration by Rudy Scoggins/ The Current

"College Nights" for only \$1 with your UM-St. Louis I.D.

12. See a cheap movie at St. Andrew's 3 (www.standrews3.com) in St. Charles. For \$2 you can see some of the summer's hottest movies. Movies that are showing the week of Nov. 13 to Nov. 17 are "Madagascar," "March of the Penguins," "Sky High," "Valiant," "Four Brothers" and "Wedding Crashers."

13. Check out a live theatrical performance. Try to catch some \$8 student rush tickets half an hour prior to performances at the St. Louis' Repertory Theater (www.repstl.org) or check out student performances such as "The Rambling Nut" at the Touhill (www.touhill.org), where students receive discounts.

14. Listen to live music at one of St. Louis' many venues. See KDHX 88.1's extensive listing at <http://www.kdhx.org/concertcal.htm>.

15. See a sporting event. See the Blues (www.stlouisblues.com) at Savvis Center or check out the Missouri River Otters (www.riverotters.com) for minor league hockey at The Family Area. Then, try some skating of your own.

16. Strap on some skates at Steinberg Ice Skating Rink as soon as weather permits. Located in Forest Park, winter hours

will be from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday. The cost is about \$8 including rink usage and skate rental.

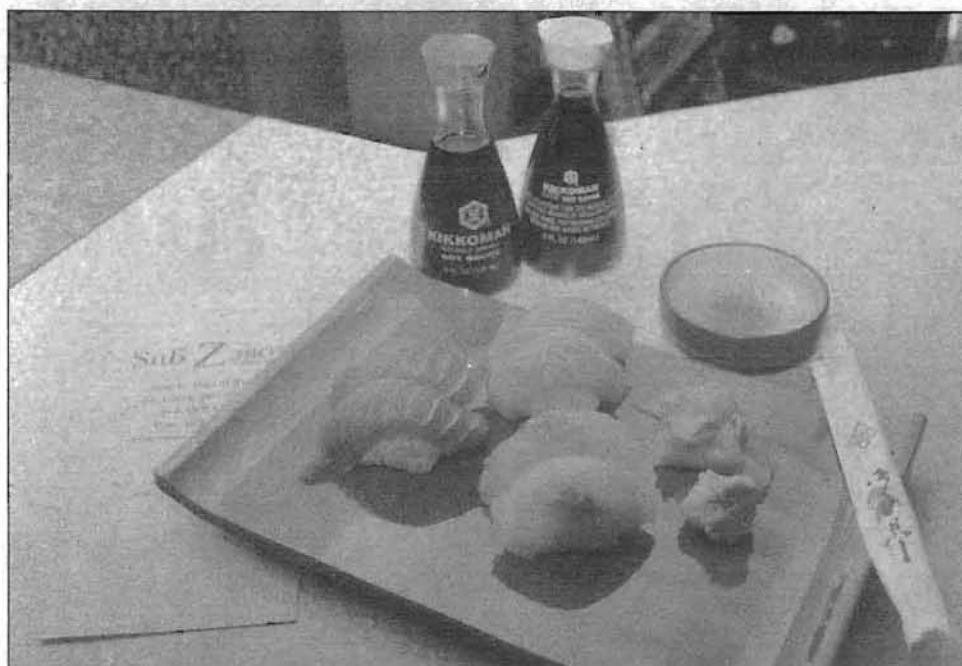
17. Roll around instead if you prefer at one of many St. Louis area skating rinks such as Rollercade Rollerskating Rink (11703 Baptist Church Rd) and Saints Olivette Family Roller Skating Center (1168 N. Warson Road).

18. Go go-karting at Grand Prix Boschertown Go-Kart Track in St. Charles (3500 N. Highway 94) for \$8 every five laps. Or maybe you'd rather do the real thing.

19. Head out to the tracks at Gateway International Raceway (www.gatewayraceway.com). For \$10 you can be a spectator of the drag races and for about \$20 you can participate yourself for recreation or pay more for a chance in a competition. Too lazy to leave the comfort of your room?

20. Catch up on your homework! Just kidding.

21. Invest in a Blockbuster movie pass (www.blockbuster.com) for \$27.99 and treat yourself and your friends to unlimited movies for a month. Staying in could prove to be even better than going out!



Samples of sushi tuna, yellowtail and salmon beckon diners at Sub Zero.

Some like it raw: sushi for beginners

BY KATE DROLET
Managing Editor

Taboo fare either repulses or entices people to try it, and feelings toward exotic eats can include a mix of the two emotions.

Sushi, a traditional Japanese dish involving often-uncooked seafood, has grown in popularity among Western cultures. A buzz among twenty-somethings and some vegetarians, sushi establishments continue to pop up in hip urban areas.

How does a sushi novice join the raw culture?

Start out with a sense of adventure. Trying unfamiliar food and overcoming the apprehension surrounding raw fish requires an open mind. Keep in mind that Western cultures have been consuming raw oysters for years.

What sort of sushi should a first timer sample initially?

Tempura-style rolls, or rolls lightly battered and flash fried, can help first-timers get used to the idea of eating raw fish. These selections are served warm, which eliminates some of the apprehension that can come with cold, raw food.

Inari is a simple, chilled menu item consisting of rice in a pocket of deep-fried tofu bags. Without any fish or seaweed, inari is a satisfying choice for vegans or those unwilling to eat other traditional sushi.

Try the California roll, one of the most common items found on a sushi menu. The California roll's sea ingredient is crabmeat. Crab is not edible raw, so this roll allows the diner to get familiar with sushi's texture and some of the flavor without uncooked items.

Some people who dislike sushi mistakenly blame their aversion on the fish; however, the distinct seaweed flavor may actually be the culprit.

California rolls include sticky rice, seaweed, crabmeat, cream cheese or avocado, and cucum-

ber. Many chefs add orange flying fish or smelt roe. These tiny caviar pieces add more to the decoration than flavor.

On first visit to a sushi bar, a newcomer might also want to try the tuna roll. The commonly eaten fish may not be as psychologically threatening to those nervous about trying raw seafood. Anyone who orders tuna steak in a regular restaurant will find the filet seared on the outside and raw inside, as chefs recommend this method of cooking in order to maximize the flavor.

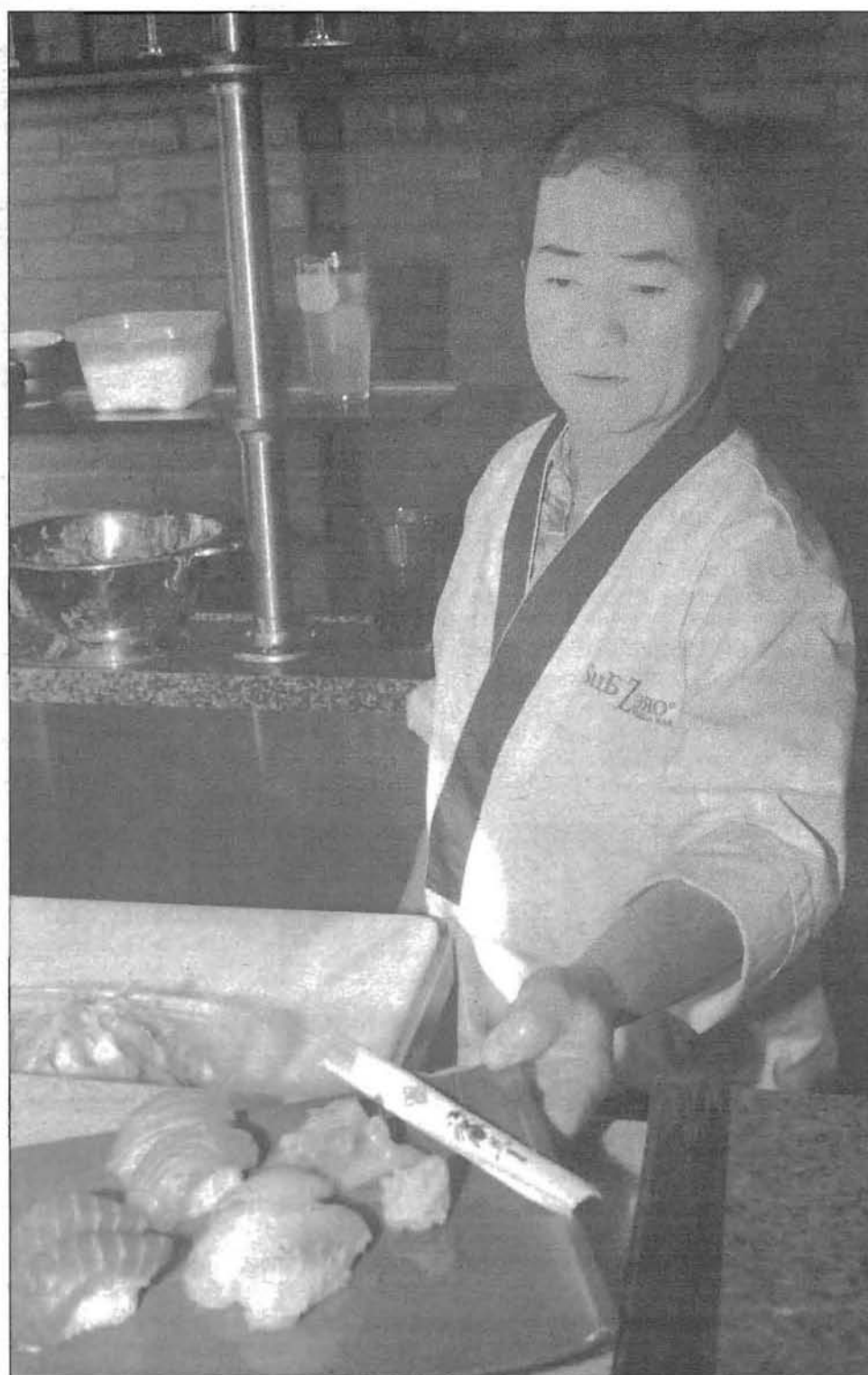
Tuna meat is dark red and slightly chewier than other varieties of fish, mostly because of the muscle striations present. It has a firm consistency and a subtle sea flavor (not all types of fish have a noticeably salty or "fishy" taste).

The tuna roll and spicy tuna roll include the same basics (rice, seaweed and tuna), though the latter is basted with a spicy sauce. Depending on the individual preparing the roll, diners will get a combination of avocado, cream cheese, cucumber and other vegetable bits.

Salmon, with its distinct flavor, is a good choice for those who enjoy cooked fish. Those who dislike the "fishy" flavor might not like this particular choice. The salmon roll has similar ingredients as the tuna roll. This fish is usually dark pink and also has a chewier consistency because of muscle striations.

Yellowtail rolls come in a slightly different form. Usually a strip of seaweed surrounds the entire roll, whereas the aforementioned choices integrate the seaweed into the roll and have a piece of seaweed on the inside. The wrap style gives yellowtail rolls a slightly different consistency. This selection usually includes only rice, a piece of fish and sometimes a small spread of wasabi paste.

Yellowtail is white or light pink colored and has an extremely soft consistency (though not mushy). For those who have mastered the sushi



Photos by Adam Wiseman/ The Current

Vu Huang, sushi chef at Sub Zero, prepares a trio of sushi flavors last Saturday.

roll and are ready to try nigiri (a plain piece of fish on rice) or sashimi (just a piece of fish), yellowtail is one of the best starters. Its subtle flavor and smooth texture are not aggressive on the palate like some other varieties of fish.

Unagi, or eel, is another selection that first timers and sushi pros alike will enjoy in sashimi fashion, though it often comes on a small bed of rice and wrapped with a thin slice of seaweed. Often cooked in covered in teriyaki sauce, unagi has a familiar, chicken-like consistency that regular meat eaters can enjoy.

For those looking to try something a little more exotic, consider orders with octopus (chewy consistency, suckers often included) or a gunkan item (small cups of rice surrounded by dried seaweed and filled with things like salmon roe or sea urchin).

Sushi traditionally comes with a small mound of wasabi (horseradish-based) paste and pickled ginger. Frequent diners often enjoy dipping their orders in soy sauce, and some choose to mix a small portion of wasabi in the sauce. Beware using the wasabi, as chefs may already include

some of the spicy paste in rolls. Pickled ginger has an intense flavor and can be eaten to cleanse the palate in between rolls.

Anyone with questions about the menu can ask the waiter, waitress or sushi chef. Diners do not have to order their entire meals at one time; requesting one or several rolls and asking for more at a later time is acceptable practice.

To join the sushi culture, visit one of St. Louis' establishments. Area restaurants include the affordably-priced I Love Mr. Sushi, located at 9443 Olive Blvd. Seki's Japanese Restaurant, located at 6335 Delmar Blvd., offers a diverse spread prepared traditionally. Tokyo Sushi, 3729 S. Lindbergh Blvd., has an enjoyable atmosphere (large orders come on a sushi boat) and inexpensive food. The Drunken Fish, located at 639 Westport Plaza, is an upscale establishment with food and entertainment. For a night out visit Sub Zero, located at 308 N. Euclid Ave. Sub Zero serves sushi daily, and it also boasts a bar with over 140 types of vodka. First timers looking for local sushi restaurants and reviews can go to <http://stlouis.citysearch.com>.

Concert Review

O.A.R. starts a rock of a revolution at the Fox

BY ZACH MEYER
Music Critic

Last Thursday night, O.A.R. (Of A Revolution) and opening act Michael Tolcher played to hundreds of adoring fans at the Fabulous Fox Theatre. Throughout the acts, fans, drunk on good music and alcohol, screamed, danced and sang along to almost every song.

Michael Tolcher and his band opened the show with an overly flashy set comprised of cheesy oldies covers and crowd pleasers. Halfway through the set the band even broke down into a cover of "Don't Worry, Be Happy" by Bobby McFerrin and closed things up with a jammed out version of "All Along The Watch Tower."

However, Michael Tolcher's stage performance seemed a little too plastic and pre-wrapped. The guitarist for the band, who looked like a mixture of Dave Navarro and Lenny Kravitz, clearly thought a lot of himself, making sure to play almost every solo behind his head. Also, during the rendition of "All Along The Watch Tower," the band jumped into a rather synthetic line dance which didn't quite fit the emotional meaning of the song's lyrics. In the end, the band was ho-hum at best but decent enough to sit through.

As soon as the opening act finished its set, the crew ran onto the stage and frantically prepared for the main act, O.A.R.

Although O.A.R. is one of the most successful do-it-yourself bands in today's rock and roll, the group finally decided to sign with major label Lava Records for their most recent album, "Stories of a Stranger." However, unwilling to be branded with "selling out," the band still put as much heart and vigor into its live performances as possible.

"We were never comfortable in the studio," said Richard On, guitarist for O.A.R. in a pre-show interview. "On stage we're still

very comfortable, that's our home, but in the studio we couldn't capture the energy."

Storming the teal and ice purple laser-lit stage, the band opened up the set with "52-50" from the most recent album. Obviously playing with as much enthusiasm as it could muster, the band, comprised of Marc Roberge on rhythm guitar and vocals, Jerry DePizzo on saxophone, Chris Culos on drums, Benj Gershman on bass guitar and On on lead guitar, played through songs both old and new.

However, it wasn't until the band played "Love and Memories" that everyone really got into the show. Strobe lights radiated the Fox Theatre, fans danced in the aisles, and a man dressed in a ninja suit jumped on stage with a tambourine in hand to ensure that the band stayed in rhythm.

Clearly enjoying being able to play in a venue as grand as the Fox Theatre, lead vocalist and front man Roberge announced to the audience, "This place is beautiful. We go from city to city playing in college gymnasiums and then you get to play in a place like this."

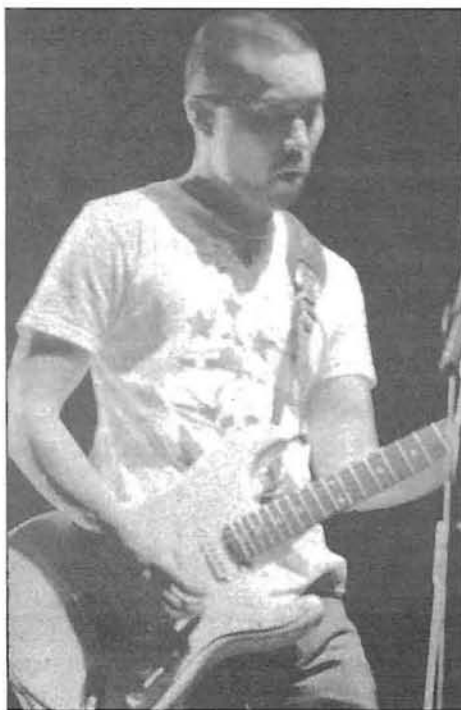
The highlight of the show took place when the band played songs from previous albums such as "City on Down" and "A Crazy Game of Poker," which Nick Voss of Lake St. Louis informed me was "the greatest drinking song ever." He then proceeded to dance with a beer in his hand, spilling the frothy beverage all over my seat

and pants.

However, despite the crowd's and band's enthusiasm, much has been lost in comparison to the band's previous shows. The songs didn't come out nearly as fresh as they should have been, and on certain songs the band was even sloppy, killing the emotional tension on "Black Rock."

In all, the band proved to be quite entertaining. It would have been nice to see the band play a show as it has in the past instead of letting careless mistakes plague the band's set but the crowd's drunken antics and an overall great stage performance more than made up for the band's flaws.

I give one and a half thumbs up for O.A.R. and two thumbs up for the fans' unfaltering participation.



Valerie Breshears/ The Current

Richard On, lead guitarist for O.A.R., performs Thursday night at the Fox Theater.



Photos by: Valerie Breshears/ The Current

Jerry Depizzo, saxophonist of O.A.R., performs Thursday night at the Fox Theater. Since becoming a band during high school in 1996, O.A.R. has released seven full-length albums, including their latest album titled, "Stories of a Stranger."



CD Review

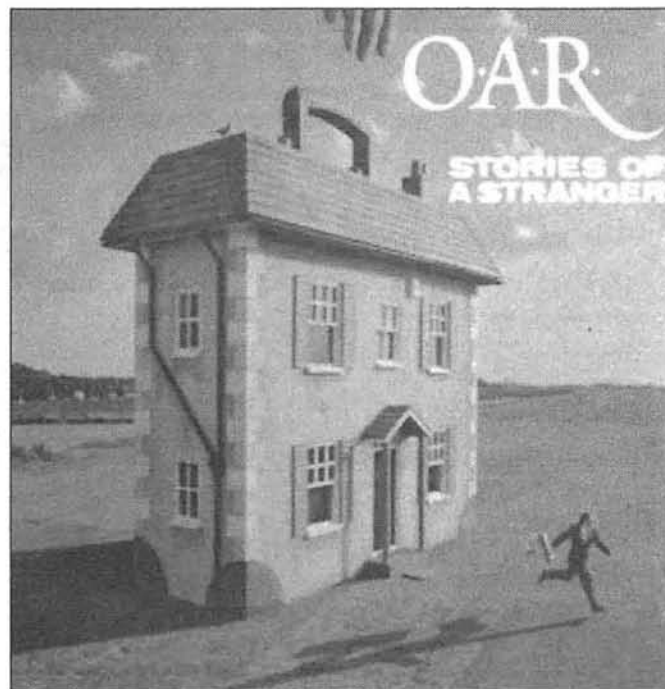


Photo courtesy oarsa.org

O.A.R. plays on with the same enthusiasm as previous albums

BY ZACH MEYER

Music Critic

O.A.R., or rather, Of A Revolution, is one of the most successful do-it-yourself bands in today's world of rock and roll, finally moved to a major record label. However, the band is not willing to settle down just because their recordings and tours are not on a bigger scale, nor are they willing to be tagged with "selling out."

"We're just as driven as the band ever was, if not more, because before we didn't know if we could do this as a career or even a job at the very least," says Richard On, guitarist for O.A.R.

O.A.R., comprised of Marc Roberge on rhythm guitar and vocals, Jerry DePizzo on saxophone, Chris Culos on drums, Benj Gershman on bass guitar, and Richard On on lead guitar, started in 1996 as a mere high school group of friends.

"Mark and Chris grew up together, they went to the same elementary school together, and then junior high which is where I met them," On said during the interview, "We all started playing together and started out as a high school garage band, or not even that, but a basement band."

After graduating from high school, most of the band moved to the same university where they sold 250,000 CDs from their backpacks. Upon doing so, the band realized that playing in a band as a career was possible.

Since then, the band has released seven full-length albums, toured back and forth across the country several times and gained the attention of a major label, much to some fans dismay. However, even with the criticism the band has received the band is staying positive. In fact, to ensure that they captured the same

energy as before, the band went back to their stomping grounds of their old practice basement.

"For this last record we went back to the basement for a lot of the pre-production. First off, it didn't cost any money, second off we thought it'd be just kind of cool and nostalgic, and third because it brought back a lot of old memories," said On.

Nonetheless, the band still has evolved. On the most recent album, "Stories of a Stranger" which was released in early October, the production is much more polished than before. Lead vocalist Marc Roberge's voice is far more polished and less gritty than on previous albums, and the guitars and drums are more finely tuned in with the recording process.

There use of high cleaner production is the most obvious on "Love and Memories." In actuality, the recording process seems to get in the way of the previous more personal-based records. On "Dakota," the sanitary sound comes close to ruining the song, and the same goes for "The Stranger" where the over-production makes the song seem more like an acoustic pre-teen pop song.

However, the band does retain some of its reggae influences such as on the song "Lay Down," and in particular on "Program Director" which sounds something akin to an old Bob Marley tune.

Overall, although "Stories of a Stranger" has its weak points, the band has succeeded in maintaining their enthusiasm for playing music.

"I think there's a huge difference," said On. "I think we've grown as a band. We've made other major label studio records before, but we were never comfortable in the studio. On stage we're still very comfortable, that's our home, but in the studio we couldn't capture the energy... If we're not growing as a band, we're not doing our job"

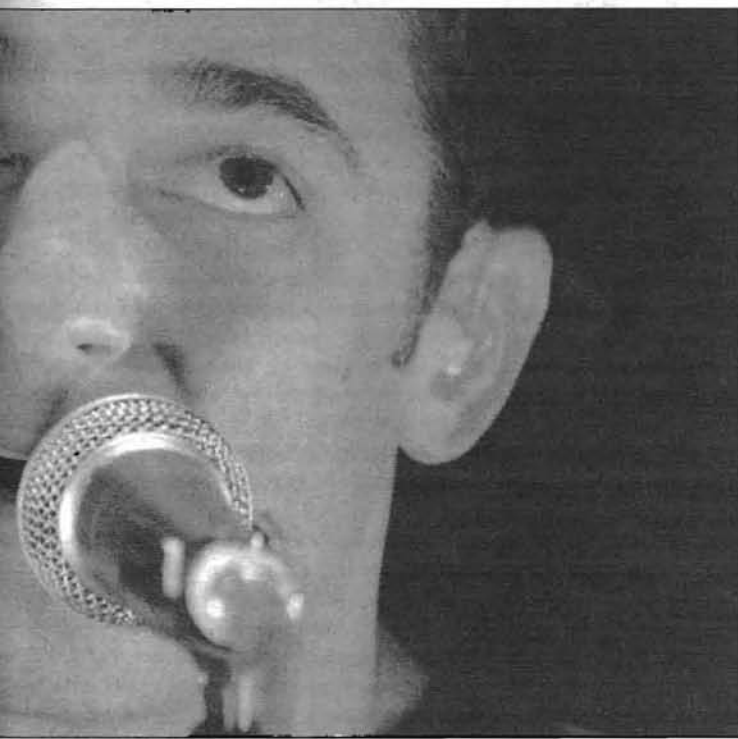


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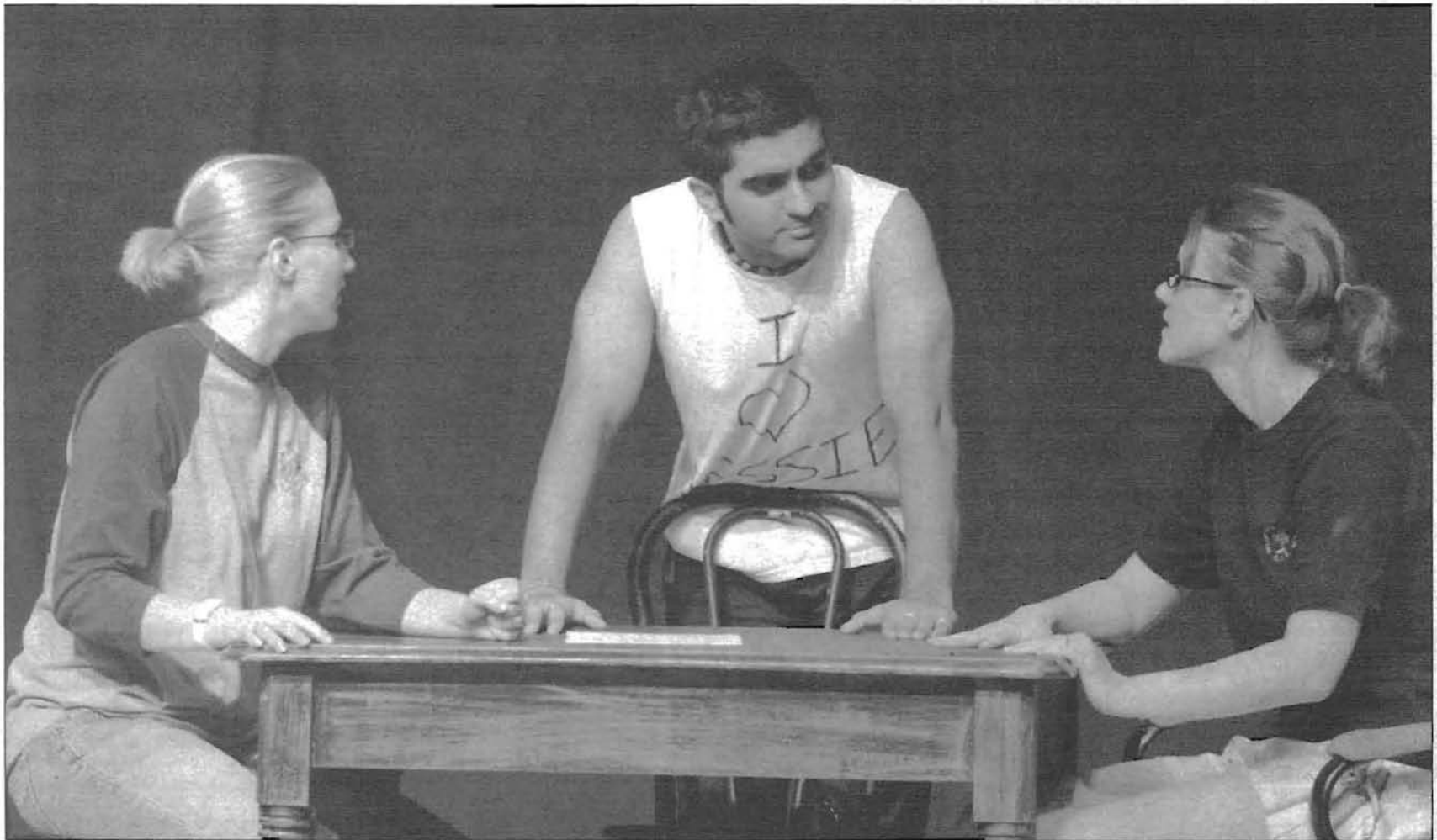
Marc Roberge, vocalist and rhythm guitarist of O.A.R., performs Thursday night at the Fox Theater.

LEFT:

Roberge said the band never seemed to capture the energy in the studio. On the stage, they felt more at home.



"It will change your life. It will make you want to make out with someone."



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

(From left) Lottie Bergstrom, Brijul Bhakta and Kate Drolet rehearse a scene from *Cirque du So-Lame*. *Cirque* and *Titanic* open Monday night.

Loonies, darts, the f-word and farts take the Touhill

Cirque du So-Lame

- Nov. 14 and 15
- Lee Theater (PAC)
- 8 p.m.
- Sketch comedy
- Adult material

Titanic

- Nov. 14 and 15
- Lee Theater (PAC)
- Following *Cirque*
- One act comedy
- Rated NC-17

BY MABEL SUEN
Night Life Editor

What do you get when you put horror icon Jason in situations such as morning shaving, a spelling bee and celebrating his birthday? The answer is a lot of awkwardness, and even more laughs.

The University Players, a student-run theater organization, will be presenting these scenarios along with various others in *Cirque Du So-Lame*, a previously performed sketch comedy show that has had varying cast members and a developing plot that originated three years ago.

Consisting of approximately 14 sketches, *Cirque Du So-Lame* is "high-brow humor presented in a low-brow manner," said writer and director Brijul Bhakta, senior, business.

"Come see the show, laugh and have a good time," said cast member David Carpenter, senior, communication.

While a handful of the skits feature the character Jason, the others include

anything from dancing and darts to f-words and farts. The Trix bunny even makes an appearance. Some of the skits will make you view your childhood days in extremely different ways, while others specialize specifically in "adult" humor.

"It will change your life. It will make you want to make out with someone," said Bhakta. "If they like it, I wrote it. If they don't, Dave wrote it."

Directly following *Cirque Du So-Lame* is a student production of *Titanic*, a one-act play written by Christopher Durang. Rated NC-17 for strong sexual content, crude humor, and possibly offensive materials, six students will portray some of the "lesser known" passengers aboard the S.S. *Titanic* from a perspective that is much different than most people are accustomed to.

The play begins with the characters Richard and Victoria Tammurai both revealing various shocking affairs and intrigues to each other, much to their 12-year-old son Teddy's dismay. Among these surprises are erroneous birthrights and incestuous relationships.

"Be willing to embrace many weird

concepts and scenarios," said Alex Feldhaus, freshman, theater, who plays the role of Teddy.

The plot only seems to thicken in complex content and humorous perversity from there. Think unrated *Jerry Springer* at sea. Various seductions begin to form between the Tammurai family and the ship's captain, a nymphet named Lydia, and Higgins the sailor, who is constantly on the outlook for icebergs.

To increase the outrageous hilarity, the cast has some interesting gender role reversals. It seems as if everyone on the ship wishes it would sink.

"It is slapstick comedy of the absurd," said Justin Riddler, freshman, theater, who plays the role of Richard. "You'll have a good laugh and possibly be offended, but in a good way."

The *Cirque du So-Lame* at 8 p.m., followed by *Titanic* at 9 p.m., will be showing at the Lee Theatre in the Touhill Performing Arts Center on Nov. 14 and Nov. 15. Admission is free of charge, but much of the material is not meant for young children and some adults. For more information, visit www.touhill.org.

Professor to go 'balls out' with upcoming one-man show

BY ALBERTO PATINO

Staff Writer

"The Rambling Nut" is an autobiographical performance centered on theater professor Eric Love's experience in college when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer and had no health insurance. Love describes it as "a wild and wooly journey through the medical welfare system and different hospitals."

Though the cancer didn't kill him, some of his treatment almost did, as it was done incorrectly and left him with a near-fatal infection. Love had to go back into a private hospital, one that could adequately treat his illness.

Love's personal narrative promises to be harrowing yet emotional and informative, and ultimately a very human account of one man's triumph over cancer, and is not to be missed.

CURRENT: How did you come up with the concept for "The Rambling Nut," and what did you seek to accomplish with it?

LOVE: It came to be because I was taking a performance studies class at Mizzou, and one of the things we focused on was autobiographical performance and personal narrative. I really didn't want to do an autobiographical piece, I thought it was kind of self-indulgent. The week before I was supposed to go, some of the other students went, and their presentations were all autobiographical, and I was really moved by their performances. They really impressed me, and moved me in a way that I hadn't been moved before in theatre. At that moment I said, "I have got to try it, I must try something autobiographical." So I was at home trying to figure out what to do, I was cleaning my office actually, and I came across this shoebox full of letters from when I had cancer in college. They were from my friends from home 1500 miles away. After finding those letters I realized, "This is the story."

Furthermore, I never formally said "thank you" to all these people collectively, so this might have been a way to say thank you to these people that I personally believe kept me alive.

CURRENT: How has it been for you emotionally, physically and spiritually to prepare for this performance?

LOVE: In preparing for it, there's an emotional component in that I have to go back and relive that experience and there are positive and negative aspects of that. But I think it ultimately ends up being more positive because I'm reminded of just what great friends I have, and how much they love me and I love them. When I prepare for it, I end up reading all these letters all over again, even the ones that I don't use in the play (a couple letters do get read in the play). I read through them all just to remind me what that place was like and that space was like. But when it comes to rehearsing and actually doing some of the scenes that have to do directly with death or cancer, those are hard to do.

They took a lot out of me. Most of my rehearsals aren't 100 percent; I rehearse at like 50 percent of the emotion, to kind of protect myself, so that I'm not worn out by the time I go onstage.



Adam Wiseman/ The Current

Eric Love, UM-St. Louis professor of theater, will do a free performance of his autobiographical one-man show, "The Rambling Nut," on Friday Nov. 19 at 8 p.m. in the Lee Theater of the Touhill Performing Arts Center. The show is based on Love's battle with testicular cancer while he was in college.

There is one part in rehearsal where I'm mentally reliving chemotherapy, and that's taxing on me physically. And I have a tendency when I rehearse to run through it once, and I'll run through it again, and just keep doing it not mindful of what time it is, then look at the clock and it's 4 in the morning and it's like, "Oh my God, I've done this all night!" So it can be a little physically taxing because I lose sleep getting so much into the process.

Spiritually I think the amount of love I feel from my college friends has returned and that sense of having a place in the world, still having that community, that's a very spiritually rewarding thing. If I didn't feel a spiritual motivation for it, I couldn't do it, I couldn't prepare.

CURRENT: In composing this piece, did you write a script for it? And are there any elements of improvisation in it?

LOVE: "Improv" is a hard, or weird term to use because this is from my life. And so it can't really be improvisational because it really happened and it's not a dramatized history. In fact, sometimes I'm telling you what happened to a level where in any other context it would be uncomfortable. I'm telling strangers really intimate things about my life. But on the other hand, if you aren't willing to tell the full truth then you shouldn't bother telling anything when it comes to this kind of performance. An autobiographical narrative should be a kind of testimony to show people experience, you can't do

that with lies, not even dramatic lies. You have to tell the truth.

With the way it was created, I sat down in front of a computer and I tried to write it and nothing came, and I got really frustrated. And finally I said "forget it. I'm just going to sit here and say it, say what's on my mind, pretend there's an audience, pretend that my college friends are here, and I'm going to tell them a story. That's what I did, 60 minutes of just talking to nobody. So it was built orally, not through writing. I eventually did create a script because I needed an artifact for my dissertation for when I first performed it as a doctoral student at Mizzou.

When I prepare for it now, I'll glance at the old text, and read through it quickly once, and just go back to rebuilding it orally. Onstage, sometimes I'll take a note card, a small outline just so I don't forget an important story or the order the stories are in, which I think makes for a better story overall.

CURRENT: Particularly ballsy (if you can forgive the pun) is the move to set your performance in the middle of the pit. Why did you choose to perform there as opposed to onstage?

LOVE: I am not above my audience. (Laughs) There is nothing that's happened to me that essentially can't happen to them. There's nothing that sets me apart, no. I've had close friends say "I don't know how you did it man, I couldn't have done it," and I said,

"Bullshit, yes you could. You would, because what other choice would you have?"

There's also the bit of the idea of reflecting an operating theatre. It'll feel more like a medical environment, because we are all looking down at the performer. I want to be down with my audience, to be close to them. If anything, they can be above me. I don't really want people to think of this in terms of performer and audience, actor and spectator, that we're separate. It's an egalitarian thing for me.

CURRENT: You are now a respected and well-known professor here at UM-St. Louis. You are also now married and have a two-year-old daughter. What effects have these things had on your performance now, as opposed to the way you performed it in graduate school?

LOVE: Well, every time I perform it changes in some way. As far as the narrative voice, speaking as me now, that's going to be a different person than when I was a grad student three years ago.

Also I think the fact that I've successfully had a child has an impact, because they said I would be unable to have children because of my chemotherapy. Up until that time I didn't have any children, and as far as I knew I never would. So the fact that we did have a daughter, that puts a unique spin on things too, that was such a blessing. I would say I've changed more from the fact of having a child, than I've changed from the fact of being a professor.

CURRENT: Taking into account that many of your peers and students will be in attendance, is there something that you wish to intimate to them prior to seeing you onstage? Perhaps something they should expect, or even not expect?

LOVE: To send out a message I would say bring as many people as you can, especially college guys. I really think the story is something everybody should hear.

This is a piece that [deals with the fact that] when I was diagnosed with testicular cancer, I had never heard of it. I never thought that my problem was cancer. And I think today, still most college-aged males don't know that they are at risk for it, and that it's really easy to check for it. So I just want to increase awareness about that, about cancer and its treatment in general, and that people do live through it, and can live through it. When we support our friends who are going through that experience it helps us to have a good sense of what that experience entails so that we know how to support them.

Also, there will be donations being accepted for the American Cancer Society, and can tell you for a fact, if it weren't for their research I would be dead. So I really hope that people would bring some money to donate to the Cancer Society, or consider it after the show.

Eric Love will perform "The Rambling Nut" at the Touhill Performing Arts Center's Lee Theatre this Friday, Nov. 18, and Saturday, Nov. 19 at 8pm. Admission is free for this non-ticketed performance. As mentioned, donations to the American Cancer Society will be accepted. The play contains some adult language.

When push comes to shove: Survive a punk rock show

BY MABEL SUEN

Night Life Editor

One advantage of venues like Mississippi Nights compared to larger ones is the lack of barricades between the audience and bands. This allows for more intimacy and ultimately more in-your-face action. In order to get the most out of the live music listening experience, it is best to get off your keyster and get into the crazy crowd on the floor.

However, this can sometimes prove to be painful and even dangerous. The following is a combination of a concert review and set of tips on how to see an awesome punk or rock show and live to tell the story.

On a national tour with record label mates The Soviettes, Smoke or Fire and The Epoxies, Gainesville, Fl. punk band Against Me! made its stop at Mississippi Nights in St. Louis on Nov. 10 to an assorted audience decked out in mohawks, band tees and studded jackets. Soon enough, the large crowd of mostly strangers came to resemble a highly dysfunctional family whose reunions consist of rocking out to their favorite bands with their fellow fans.

As the first band The Soviettes took the stage, the first thing that was noticeable was the fact that it was a band comprised of mostly females: 2 female guitarists, a female bassist and a male drummer. Unlike many of the popular female musicians today, these women with guitars not only sang but showed an expert command of their instruments.

They opened with a fast paced, high energy poppy punk tune in which one of the guitarist's cutesy, aggressive yet sing-song vocals dialogued back and forth with the dynamic yelling of the drummer. In between these verses was the addition of the other females screaming "Go!" in unison. The result was a catchy tune with intensely interesting, often call and response vocal parts. The band continued to play a set of simple yet likeable tunes with plenty of vocal harmonies and variations.

Know where you're standing. While most people were merely spectators during their set, some more frenzied listeners began

moshing, a term used to describe the pushing or shoving that eager concert goers participate in at the center, or pit, of the floor. Those wary of being pushed around simply made their way to the outer reaches of the pit, hiding behind the shield of a friend or stranger with their arms outstretched like lion tamers.

The next band that came on stage was Smoke or Fire, a four-piece rock band whose fast paced riffs were sometimes lacking in originality but were always proficient in energy. The manic screaming vocals of one of the guitarists contributed much to the songs that were rarely ever over two minutes long.

Utilize the 'ole duck and cover. During their set, crowds became increasingly antsy, upping the level of excitement physically by creating a barrage of moshing and beginning to crowd surf their way to the top of the stage. Audience members reached their arms not to cop feels, but to keep the person moving towards the stage and to protect themselves from getting unwanted body parts in their faces ... which brings me to my next point. **Avoid elbows because they get tossed around quite often.** Ow.

The third band put on quite a show that caught many audience members by surprise. First, the members came on stage dressed in bright orange jumpsuits to set up their equipment. As they exited the stage, a fog machine pumped a thick cloud over the stage and audience. A guitarist dressed as a Sheriff, a bassist wearing space goggles, a synthesizer player wearing a silver metallic mask, a drummer sporting an outfit embellished with duct tape and an eccentric multi-pony tailed female vocalist emerged through the fog bearing green laser points on the ends of their instruments.

As the mini laser show shot around in the dark, a sign reading "The Epoxies" lit up behind the drummer and the music began to play. Everything about the band was bizarre in the best way including their dress, their choice of vintage instruments and their stage show. The music resembled something out of the '80s, reminiscent of the Bangles with a bit more rock and futuristic sound effects. With so much going on, it was hard to real-

ly focus on one thing, except for the fact that everyone seemed to be having a good time.

Instead of moshing, The Epoxies stimulated a dance craze with people gyrating and hopping around like kangaroos on speed. However, the crowd surfing continued and the singer, balancing an audience member's shoe on her head, declared all footwear, "free and up for grabs."

Dress the way you would if you're about to get on a rollercoaster, because you're in for one hell of a ride. Tie your hair back, wear closed-toe shoes and comfortable fitting clothing and leave what you can in the car. Make sure that your valuables are in a secure place in your pockets. You won't have to invest in a traveler's belt anytime, but personal possessions can easily be lost

"Searching for a Former Clarity."

As the drummer played his simple thumping beats that developed into full blown hard rocking rhythms, the guitars played their straightforward rocking chords and bass lines accompanying the lead singer's heavily gravelly, melodic vocals that covered anything from politics to partying.

Watch your head (and your neighbor's head too)! People caught on to the vigorous vibe and fought their way to get to the stage only to dive off again, sometimes knocking down unaware audience members like a bowling ball into a set of pins. Even though the violent mannerisms of crowd members can be a bit intimidating, it's never really personal (unless you get to be the lucky per-

“Wear deodorant. For the love of god, please wear deodorant. For those who are unfortunate enough to have ended up into the hairy, sweaty armpit of the guy next to them who decided to take off his shirt, I present this plea.”

in the frenzy and energy of the crowd.

Get to know your surroundings. As the Epoxies finished up their set, Against Me!'s multi-talented roadie began setting up the stage for the main act. The gap directly following a band's departure is always the best for pushing your way up to the front if so desired. There is always a huge break here so introduce yourself to the people standing next to you. Chances are that you will become part of a stranger sandwich that contains undesirable fix-ins.

Put a firm foot down. As soon as Against Me! hit the stage, it was easy to see why they have the exclamation point in their name. Opening up with their song, "Pints of Guinness Make You Strong," the audience that had enough room to kick and dance before was now a single indistinguishable mass of people singing along and struggling to stand up. As their set progressed, the aura only increased in arousal as Against Me! played several familiar favorites and new songs off of their newly released album,

son who ends up next to the funky-breathed drunk).

While people are busy trying to concentrate on the show and their own safety, most watch out for fellow fans if they have fallen down. Also watch out for bottles of water being tossed into the crowd, which you will probably want to get your hands on.

Against Me! finished up their set with a much wanted encore and the awe-stricken crowd left drenched in sweat, most of which was probably not their own. Which brings me to my next bit of advice ...

Wear deodorant. For the love of god, please wear deodorant. For those who are unfortunate enough to have ended up in the hairy, sweaty armpit of the guy next to them who decided to take off his shirt, I present this plea.

Last but not least, have fun. That's why you're there, after all. The sweat will dry and the bruises will fade, but the mental scars from the experience will always remain.



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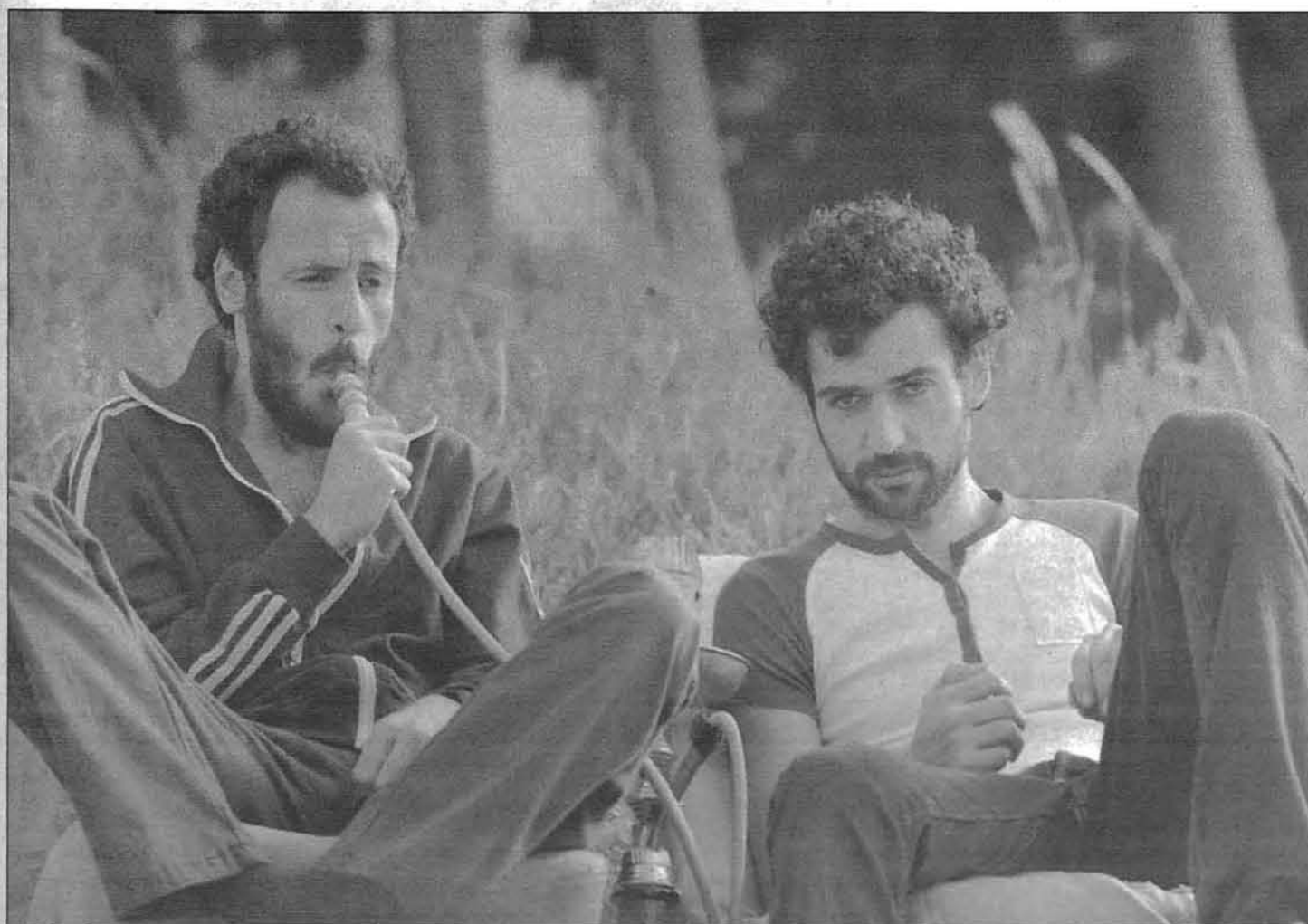
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Photos courtesy Warner Independent Pictures

Young Palestinians and best friends Said (Kais Nashef) and Khaled (Ali Suliman) contemplate their decision to become suicide bombers.

'Paradise' looks into world of suicide bombers

BY CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

Paradise is what Palestinian suicide bombers are promised they will achieve at the instant of their death. The new film "Paradise Now" unveils a story about two young Palestinian men who are preparing to become suicide bombers.

Young Palestinians Said (Kais Nashef) and Khaled (Ali Suliman) seem like ordinary guys. Lifelong friends, they are working as mechanics for a run-down repair shop and junk yard in Nablus in the West Bank, a place of grinding poverty, random roadblocks and despair. They seem less interested in work and more interested in listening to music, smoking a hookah, drinking tea and socializing. Still, Said seems a bit more serious about his work as a mechanic and also seems to have his eye on Suha (Lubna Azabal), the beautiful Algerian daughter of a Palestinian hero, who brings her car in for repairs. Suha has recently moved to Nablus from Europe, and she and Said hit it off.

But these two young men are not quite what they seem, as they have signed up to be suicide bombers, provided they can go together. Later in the day, Khaled and Said get the call that they will be sent to Tel Aviv to carry out their mission. They are also told they have one night to be with their families before they are taken to a secret hideout for training. Of course, they are cautioned to tell no one. Said,

who has become a little infatuated with Suha, stops by her house unannounced. Unlike Said and Khaled, who have lived in the poverty of the West Bank most of their lives, Suha has been educated in Europe and holds more moderate views of the world than Said and Khaled. She is opposed to all the violence, and tells Said killing only leads to more killing, and only non-violent solutions can lead to peace. After talking to her, Said is now less certain about his commitment but reluctantly goes anyway.

Said and Khaled are prepared for the job by being lauded as heroes, outfitted in finery for photographs and being videotaped making fiery political statements that they read from cue cards. They are praised incessantly, called heroes, and told about the heavenly awards that await them. They feel

honored when they get to meet the local leader of the resistance, who has planned their attack. They decry the way Israelis settlers are portrayed by the press as victims, asking "how can occupiers be victims?" With bombs strapped to their bodies and dressed in dark Western suits to go with their cover story about going to a wedding, Khaled and Said are driven to the spot where they will sneak through the fence to meet their driver to Tel

Aviv.

But something goes wrong and the friends are separated. Wandering around on his own, Said first goes back to the drop off point, then to a bus stop on the Israeli side of the fence. Standing at the bus stop with the old men, women with children and other ordinary people, we see his confidence waver in the face of their humanity. Khaled finds Suha in his search for Said, and as Suha talks to Khaled about the wider world and the cycle of violence, he too starts to question his decision.

“
Standing at the bus stop with the old men, women with children and other ordinary people, we see his confidence waver in the face of their humanity.
”

"Paradise Now" is a powerful, must-see film that takes you inside the closed world of these young Palestinian suicide bombers. Rather than dealing with complex political issues, the film's focus is on personal motivations and the young men's experiences. Gandhi once said that an eye for an eye

makes the whole world blind, and one of the issues this film fearlessly raises is at what point do revenge attacks stop. Every attack calls for a counter attack in an endless cycle.

In any war, soldiers are encouraged to see their enemies as both powerful and inhuman, because it is much harder to kill someone they see as human like themselves. By stripping an enemy of humanity, the leaders of terrorist groups make unreasoning hatred possible for

foot-soldiers in their war, a choice made easier to embrace in a world of poverty and restrictions. Seeing only one side, they think they have the one answer. With no other experience to challenge their assumptions, Khaled and Said pick the only choice offered them.

Hany Abu-Assad's beautifully crafted film takes a look at the humanity of both sides of the hostilities. With emotionally powerful acting and skillful written dialog, the director, who also co-wrote the film, takes you inside their world but delivers an unexpected message of peace. "Paradise Now" offers the white-knuckled tension of a thriller while providing unprecedented insight into the motivations and mechanics of terrorists and terrorism. The film takes a courageous step to challenge violence, offering a path to peace as the real solution to conflict. "Paradise Now" walks a very fine line in its quest for emotional truth. The splendid cast, especially Kais Nashef as Said, give riveting performances as they provide a look into their characters' inner turmoil and anguish. Director Abu-Assad lets meaning flow from the actor's tone of voice, gestures and the light in their eyes, never over playing scenes, and so making them that much more heart-wrenching. At the same time, the film achieves a certain visual beauty and flawless pacing to frame its emotional story.

"Paradise Now" has been a hit at several film festivals and has won numerous prizes, including the Golden Bear, at the Berlin fest. This powerful film is should be a must-see for everyone, for the insights it offers on the persistent draw of terrorism. The film opens in St. Louis on Nov. 18.

Computers and coffee connect at Rivalz Technology Café

BY MABEL SUEN
Nightlife Editor

Are you looking for a hip hang out spot around town? Rivalz Technology Café, home to games, coffee and much more may be the place for you. In order to best describe the atmosphere, a mental tour is necessary.

When you first walk up to the small brick building at night, you will notice the illuminated fluorescent java-themed "open" sign, as well as another situated above the door bearing the coffeehouse's name.

A movie of some sort, anything from *The Big Lebowski* to *The Animatrix*, is usually playing on the projection screen through the window on the right. There are two tables located outside the doors for sitting, chatting and smoking.

As soon as you approach the entrance, you cross the threshold into an atmosphere of vivid colors and sounds. Framed contemporary art, posters, banners with dragons and tribal patterns and other décor, including potted plants, accentuate the solid colored walls of bright orange, rich red and lime green.

Upbeat, often techno music pipes through speakers that are in all corners of the rectangular room at a level appropriate enough to put you in the positive mood and not interfere with activities. While sometimes these may just be pre-programmed play lists, local DJs also come in to spin tunes of their own.

To the right you will see an area of coffee

tables and several comfy, plump couches perfect for lounging and watching whatever is on the screen. (At the very least, it is a good spot for a rousing game of shadow puppets.) An aquarium filled with tiny floundering fish sits against the wall.

To your left you will notice a large round table surrounded by chairs next to a shelf full of board games and cards that are free for public use. Along with classics such as *Monopoly* and *Scrabble* are an abundant assortment of fun group games such as versions of *Trivial Pursuit*, *Apples to Apples*, *Cranium* and *Taboo*.

Next to this is a doorway to another section of the building in which gamers of all sorts can stay entertained. The walls are painted with a humorous *Halo* gaming theme. A pool table, televisions hooked up to X-Boxes and networked computers can all be used at a rate of \$4 per hour.

Proceeding past this doorway in the main section of the café, more computers line the wall on the left on which people can get on the Internet to browse the web or play one of many one-person shooters or strategic online linked versions of games. Free wireless Internet access is also available for laptop users.

Several seats and tables equipped with candles are situated in front of a food counter filled with a profusion of tasty looking treats and drinks. Patrons are asked to have a one drink minimum. This is by no means trying, as the variety of beverages range from hot flavored coffee, chocolate, chai and cappuccinos in big mugs to cold

tongue tingling fruit "ubersmoothies" that come in an infinite variety of flavor options in tall frosty glasses.

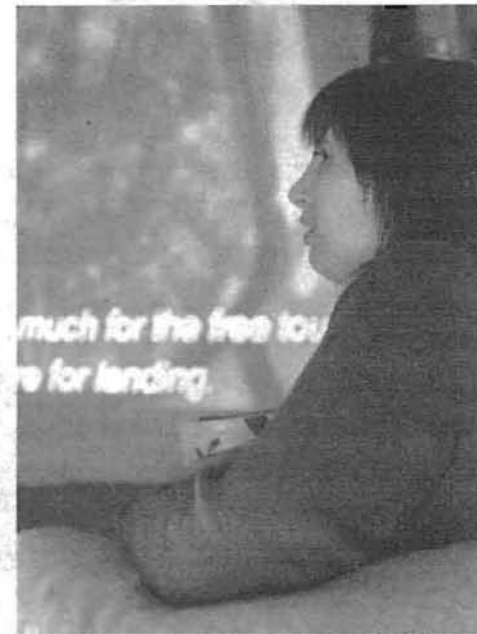
Try one of their many concoctions such as the "sticky monkey," a double shot latte combined with chocolate, a shot of caramel and banana flavor, topped with whipped cream and drizzled caramel, or check out an ice-filled IBC cream soda spiked with a shot of fruity flavor.

Jars of individually wrapped snacks and baked goods sit atop a glass case filled with appealing bottled drinks and sodas of all types, pies and cakes. If hot food is what you crave, Rivalz also offers a smorgasbord of things to tide you over, such as *Bella* thin crust pizzas, chicken nuggets and hot pockets.

More couches and tables in the back beside a flowing water wall decoration allow more options for seating and places to enjoy eats, do homework or to just chill and chat.

"If you're looking for a place to do homework, hang out, or just to get out, this is the place to come," said Chuck Kavin, barista. While this worded exploration may give you an idea of how things are run at Rivalz, it may not always be accurate to the ever-changing and rearranging setting.

Perfect for a low-key night of small group fun or for post party get-togethers, Rivalz is constantly developing, incorporating a balance between the happening music of a club with the comfort and coolness of a basement hangout that is even a good place for students to study.



Adam D. Wiseman/ The Current

Solange Deschatres, senior, English, talks to friends while watching an Anime movie on Saturday night at Rivalz.

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